NATION

Assam govt evicts 600 Muslim families from forest land

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BUSINESS

7 top firms' mcap erodes by ₹ 88,635 cr

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SPORTS

Karthik enters Round 4; Gujrathi, Narayanan eliminated

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DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

ساڈھ روزنامہ بنگلور

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Cong distances itself as Tharoor hails Advani

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

The Congress on Sunday distanced itself from MP Shashi Tharoor's remarks praising veteran BJP leader LK Advani, saying he spoke for himself. Tharoor had described Advani as a "true statesman" with an "unwavering commitment to public service", prompting criticism over Advani's role in the Ram Janmabhoomi movement. Defending his post, Tharoor said it was unfair to judge Advani's long career by a single episode, just as Nehru's legacy cannot be defined by the China war or Indira Gandhi's by the Emergency. Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera said the party "out rightly dissociates" itself from Tharoor's statement, adding that his freedom to express personal views reflects the party's "liberal spirit". *—PTI*

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MP school gets steel plates after viral video

SHEOPUR, 9 NOV

A primary school in Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh, has received steel plates after a viral video showed pupils eating their mid-day meal on newspapers, prompting public outrage and criticism from Congress MP Rahul Gandhi. Authorities have cancelled the contract of the self-help group providing the meals and handed the responsibility to the school management committee. The school in charge, Bhogiram Dhakad, has been suspended, while two staff members face action. Sharing the video on X, Rahul Gandhi accused the BJP of offering only an "illusion" of development and said children deserve "a plate of dignity." *—PTI*

Amid season's worst AQI, CJI flags walkathon

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

On a day when Delhi-NCR reeled under its worst air quality of the season, with AQI peaking at 391, Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and SCBA president Vikas Singh on Sunday flagged off an 8-km walkathon from the Supreme Court to India Gate. The contrast was stark as smog blanketed the city and most stations recorded "severe" pollution, including Punjabi Bagh (425) and Bawana (410). Around 2,000 lawyers participated in the walk, joined by senior Supreme Court and Delhi High Court judges. A tree-plantation drive was also held. Themed "Justice for All", the event highlighted the urgent need to reduce case pendency and strengthen public faith in the justice system. The SCBA stressed faster, fairer disposal of cases and the growing importance of mediation and arbitration. *—PTI*

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Salar Trust secy Aleemulla Khan no more

BENGALURU, 9 NOV

CM Aleemulla Khan, Secretary of the Salar Publications Trust, breathed his last on Sunday at 5.15pm. A respected community figure, he was known for his dedicated service to the Trust and its social and educational initiatives. His demise has been widely mourned, with colleagues calling it a significant loss. ***—Salar News***

Bihar's war of words takes its final bow as campaign ends

Modi led the campaign for Phase 2 with at least 14 rallies

PATNA, 9 NOV

Campaigning for the second and final phase of the high-stakes Bihar Assembly elections concluded on Sunday evening, ending nearly a month of fierce political sparring as parties vie for power in the state.

The first phase of polling, held on 6 November, recorded a remarkable 65 per cent turnout across 121 seats. The second phase, covering 122 constituencies, will take place on 11 November, with counting scheduled for 14 November.

Key seats going to the polls include Chakai, where JD(U) minister Sumit Kumar Singh seeks re-election; Jamui, represented by BJP MLA Shreyasi Singh; JD(U) minister Leshi Singh's Dhamdaha; and Chhatapur, held by BJP minister Neeraj Kumar Singh.

The final day of campaigning saw major national leaders giving the last push. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who has

Jan Suraaj chief Prashant Kishor during a roadshow for Bihar Assembly elections at Narkatiya in East Champaran district *PHOTO: PTI*

spearheaded one of the most intensive campaigns by any national figure, addressed rallies in Sasaram and Arwal — both considered relatively weak zones for the BJP. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh campaigned in Aurangabad and Kaimur districts, bordering Uttar Pradesh.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi held rallies in Kishanganj and Purnea in the Seemanchal region, where Muslim voters are key to the INDIA bloc. Gandhi's campaign has been energetic, with 15 public meetings following his earlier Voter Adhikar Yatra, though his "vote chori" charge failed to gain traction.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's extensive involvement defined the campaign, with 14 rallies and a roadshow. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra also campaigned in Bihar for the first time, addressing 10 rallies and holding a roadshow, though one meeting was cancelled due to bad weather.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar ran a quieter but steady campaign, aiming for a fifth consecutive term. His absence from subsequent events with Modi fuelled speculation, though he continued his outreach undeterred.

Tejashwi Yadav mounted a spirited challenge as the INDIA bloc's CM face, while Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj Party remained the election's 'X factor', relying on a grassroots, door-to-door approach. *—PTI*

Arms recovered by three peole who were arrested by the Gujarat ATS on Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

Terror plot foiled as 3 ISIS terrorists held from Gujarat

AHMEDABAD, 9 NOV

The Gujarat Anti-Terrorist Squad (ATS) has unearthed a suspected terror plot involving the preparation of the highly lethal chemical agent ricin, arresting a China-trained 'doctor' and two associates allegedly linked to an Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) handler.

Dr Ahmed Mohiyuddin Saiyed, originally from Hyderabad, was arrested near Adalaj in Gandhinagar on 7 November. ATS officers recovered two Glock pistols, a Beretta pistol, 30 live cartridges and four litres of castor oil, used in ricin extraction, along with equipment and raw materials for chemical processing.

ATS DIG Sunil Joshi said Saiyed was "highly educated and radicalised", and had planned to raise funds and recruit individuals for major terrorist activities. Saiyed had allegedly begun producing ricin and had conducted reconnaissance of sensitive locations in Lucknow, Delhi and Ahmedabad alongside two associates, Azad Suleman Sheikh and Mohammad Suhail Mohammad Saleem.

The ATS said the trio were in Gujarat to exchange weapons and were working under the guidance of a handler, Abu Khadija, an Afghan national linked to ISKP. The accused also claimed arms consignments were delivered to them via drones from across the Pakistan border.

Sheikh and Saleem, both from Uttar Pradesh, were arrested in Banaskantha after investigators traced their involvement through Saiyed's mobile phone. They had allegedly procured weapons from Hanumangarh in Rajasthan and supplied them to Saiyed.

The ATS seized three mobile phones and two laptops, and is probing possible wider networks. While no local sleeper cell has yet been identified, Joshi said investigations were under way across multiple states with support from central and state agencies.

Saiyed has been remanded in ATS custody until 17 November. *—Agencies*

COVERED IN BITE MARKS

4-yr-old taken from rly stn, raped in WB

KOLKATA, 9 NOV

A four-year-old girl was allegedly kidnapped while she was sleeping beside her grandmother and subsequently raped in West Bengal's Hooghly, officials said on Saturday.

The police have detained the grandfather of the girl.

According to police, the incident took place on Friday near Tarakeswar railway station premises where the child's family had been taking shelter. In a complaint filed later, the family alleged that the girl was taken from under her

After hours of searching, relatives discovered her in a bloodied state near a drain beside the station that afternoon *PHOTO: SCREENGRAB*

mosquito net, which was reportedly slit open while she was asleep and then sexually assaulted.

Panic broke out when the child was found missing at dawn. After hours of searching, relatives discovered her in a bloodied state near a drain beside the station that afternoon. The girl was rushed to Tarakeswar Rural Hospital where doctors provided first aid before discharging her.

According to Parna Adak, secretary of the BJP's Arambagh district, the child was found in a naked state, bleeding, with bite marks on her cheek. "Despite hours of treatment, she is still bleeding from her genitals," Adak was quoted as saying by India Today. *—PTI*

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TN doc detained in Russia, wife says tortured in custody

CHENNAI, 9 NOV

A doctor from Tamil Nadu's Tiruvallur district has been stranded in Russia after being allegedly detained and mistreated by authorities in Sochi in September.

Dr K Jagadeeswaran's wife, Yamini, has appealed to the Central and State governments to help secure his safe return to India. She said her husband was "tortured and humiliated" in custody for unknown reasons and that his health had deteriorated severely. Though now released, he lacks the documents needed to travel to Moscow and return home.

Jagadeeswaran, who obtained his medical degree from an Armenian university in 2022, had been living in Armenia with his wife and infant daughter. During a visit to Tamil Nadu in August, a friend, Shekhar Manikandan, invited him to accompany him to Russia, as Jagadeeswaran spoke Russian.

They left Chennai on 15 September but were detained by immigration officials upon arrival in Sochi. While Manikandan was deported after a week, Jagadeeswaran was kept in custody for allegedly not cooperating, a claim his wife denies.

Despite being released with his passport, he has not been given travel documents. Yamini has sought help from the Ministry of External Affairs and appealed publicly for urgent intervention to bring her husband home safely. *—PTI*

Munir becomes Chief of Defence as Pak amends Constitution

ISLAMABAD, 9 NOV

Pakistan's Parliament has passed the 27th Constitutional Amendment Bill, paving the way for Army Chief General Asim Munir to assume the position of Chief of Defence Forces, a newly established role aimed at enhancing coordination among the three branches of the military. The amendment modifies Article 243 of the Constitution, allowing the President to appoint both the Army chief and Chief of Defence Forces on the Prime Minister's advice.

The bill specifies that the Chief of Army Staff, who will also serve as Chief of Defence Forces, will appoint the head of the National Strategic Command, in consultation with the Prime Minister, with

- The bill specifies that the Chief of Army Staff, who will also serve as Chief of Defence Forces, will appoint the head of the National Strategic Command, in consultation with the Prime Minister.

the head drawn from the Pakistan Army.

This legislative move follows General Munir's recent promotion to Field Marshal, making him only the second officer in history to receive this title, which confers lifelong privileges.

The bill further permits the government to promote armed forces personnel to ranks such as Field Marshal and Admiral of the Fleet. It also stipulates that the position of Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee will expire on 27 November, 2025, centralising military authority under Munir. This overhaul is thought to be influenced by lessons learned during recent military conflicts. *—Agencies*

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Now, 7 years' jail for polygamy in Assam

GUWAHATI, 9 NOV

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Sunday said that the state cabinet has approved a Bill to ban polygamy, for which convicts may face up to seven years of rigorous imprisonment.

However, there may be some exceptions for the Sixth Schedule areas.

Addressing a press conference after a cabinet meeting here, Sarma said the government will also create a new fund to compensate the women victims of polygamy so that they do not face hardship in continuing with their lives.

"The Assam cabinet today approved a Bill to ban polygamy. The Bill will be called 'The Assam Prohibition of Polygamy Bill, 2025'. It will be tabled in the assembly on November 25," he added.

Sarma said that if an accused is convicted of polygamy, he may face rigorous imprisonment of up to seven years.

"We have also decided to create a fund to give compensation to the victim women. The government will help with financial support in the required cases so that no woman faces hardship in her life," he added. *—PTI*

FROM TODAY 6PM

Kerala tourist buses suspend services to Karnataka, TN over heavy fines

KOCHI, 9 NOV

The Luxury Bus Owners Association on Sunday announced that they will suspend all interstate services from Kerala to Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

In a statement, the Luxury Bus Owners Association, Kerala State Committee said that interstate tourist bus services from Kerala to Tamil Nadu and Karnataka will be suspended from 6pm, on Monday.

Association State President AJ Rijas said the decision was

taken after neighbouring states began levying heavy fines, imposing unlawful state-level taxes, and seizing All India Tourist Permit (AITP) buses belonging to Kerala operators.

General Secretary Maneesh Sasidharan said that despite having valid AITPs issued under the Central Government's Motor Vehicles Act, tourist vehicles from Kerala are being stopped, fined, and detained in Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.

"For over a year, Tamil Nadu authorities have been collecting tax arbitrarily from Kerala-registered vehicles, causing repeated harassment to operators and passengers. During this period, the Kerala government had taken a very sympathetic and supportive approach, refraining from retaliatory measures in the hope of a cooperative resolution," the association said. *—PTI*

'LEAVE SEPARATENESS OUT'

Bhagwat says Muslims, Christians welcome in RSS

BENGALURU, 9 NOV

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday said people of all faiths — including Muslims and Christians — may join the Sangh, but only if they "keep their separateness out" and identify primarily as part of the Hindu civilisational fold. His remarks, made during a lecture series on "100 Years of Sangh Journey: New Horizons", come amid longstanding criticism that the RSS is a Hindu-majoritarian and socially divisive organisation.

Bhagwat said the Sangh does not count members by caste or religion and accepts anyone who sees themselves as a "son of Bharat Mata". He reiterated the RSS's long-held position that it is legally recognised despite not being registered, noting the organisation has withstood three bans.

"No Brahmin is allowed in Sangh. No other caste is allowed in the Sangh. No Muslim is allowed, no Christian is allowed in the Sangha. Only Hindus are allowed. So people with different denominations, Muslims, Christians, any denomination, can come to the Sangha but keep your separateness out," Bhagwat said. *—ANI*

Two dead as car plunges into canal in Davanagere

DEVANAGERE, 9 NOV

Two individuals died and four others narrowly escaped when a car plunged into the Bhadra main canal near Hosuru village, Davanagere district in the State, on Thursday. The victims have been identified as Mallikarjuna, 29 and Siddesh, 38, both from Davanagere. Police report that six friends were returning from Mangaluru when the driver, reportedly drowsy, lost control, veering off the road. Four occupants managed to swim to safety, but the two drowned before rescue efforts could reach them. CCTV footage showed the car before it fell into the canal. Authorities responded promptly, and the vehicle was retrieved with assistance from expert divers. Police have registered a case for further investigation. *—Salar News*

Annamalai, Tejasvi Surya finishes Goa's Ironman

BENGALURU, 9 NOV

Bengaluru South Member of Parliament Tejasvi Surya completed the Ironman 70.3 endurance race in Goa for the second consecutive year, reaffirming his commitment to fitness and discipline. This year's event also saw the participation of former Tamil Nadu BJP State president Shri K Annamalai. MP Surya completed the three gruelling legs of the race — 1.9km of swimming, 90km of cycling, and a 21.1km run — in 7 hours and 49 minutes. In it, the swimming leg took about 44 minutes, cycling 3 hours and 47 minutes, and the run was completed at 2 hours and 54 minutes. Annamalai, on the other hand, completed the race at 8 hours and 13 minutes. The Ironman 70.3 Goa is one of the most prestigious endurance events in Asia. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Congress MLC calls for Lokayukta to disclose assets

BENGALURU, 9 NOV

Congress MLC Ramesh Babu has written to Karnataka Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister HK Patil urging amendments to the Karnataka Lokayukta Act to mandate annual public disclosure of assets by the Lokayukta, Upa-Lokayuktas and all staff of the institution. He noted that while legislators must file asset statements annually — and defaulters are publicly listed — no such disclosure is made by the Lokayukta itself. Babu also pointed out that the Lokayukta has not submitted its annual reports for 2017–18 to 2021–22 to the Legislature, calling the delay a serious lapse in transparency. He requested the government to introduce the amendment in the upcoming legislative session and ensure pending reports are tabled. *—Salar News*

RSS a recognised body of individuals, says Bhagwat

Hits back at critics over registration; says RSS was formed in 1925

BENGALURU, 9 NOV

RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat on Sunday responded to criticism from Congress leaders over the organisation's lack of formal registration, asserting that the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh is legally recognised as a "body of individuals" and has never been required to register.

Speaking at an internal question-and-answer session, Bhagwat said, "RSS was established in 1925 — do you expect us to have registered with the British government?" He added that post-independence, the Government of India did not mandate registration for such bodies. "We are categorised as a body of individuals, and we are a recognised organisation," he said, noting that both the Income Tax department and courts have affirmed this status, with the organisation exempted from income tax.

He pointed out that the RSS had been banned three times. "If we were not recognised, whom did they ban?" he asked, adding that many institutions, "even Hindu Dharma", are not registered.

Responding to accusations that the RSS respects only the saffron flag, Bhagwat said the tricolour is treated with "respect, tribute and protection". His remarks come after Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge called for a ban on the RSS, and Karnataka minister Priyank Kharge questioned its registration and funding.

RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat pays tribute during the '100 Years of Sangh Journey: New Horizons' event, in Bengaluru, Sunday *PHOTO: PTI*

Bhagwat reiterated that the Sangh does not engage in electoral politics. "We support policies, not parties. If Congress had supported the Ram Mandir movement, we would have supported them too," he said, stressing that "no party is ours, and all parties are ours because they are Bharatiya".

On Pakistan, Bhagwat said the RSS seeks peace but accused Islamabad of repeatedly breaking it. He warned that if Pakistan "does not mend its ways", it would face consequences similar to 1971. "We have to speak the language they understand," he said.

QUOTE IN LEAD

We cannot respond to all that Bhagwat has spoken," Siddaramaiah told reporters.

-Siddaramaiah, CM, on Bhagwat's outfit's registration remark

Addressing caste, he claimed there is "no casteism, only caste confusion" driven by concessions and elections, arguing that individuals can "forget caste" themselves. On 'love jihad', he urged people to focus on inculcating "Hindu samskara at home" rather than worrying about others' actions. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Centre says no to Yettinahole plan over landslide risk

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

The Centre has withheld ex-post facto forest clearance for the gravity canal of Karnataka's Yettinahole drinking water project after officials found extensive unauthorised construction, illegal dumping inside forests and heightened risks to the Western Ghats' ecology.

According to minutes of the Environment Ministry's Advisory Committee meeting on 27 October, Phase I of the project has already triggered major landslides and heavy soil erosion without demonstrating its promised drinking-water delivery. The committee said this record made rigorous scrutiny essential before allowing any further diversion of forest land.

Karnataka's revised proposal seeks diversion of 111 hectares of forest in Hassan and Tumkur, down from 173 hectares. However, around 10.13 km of the canal has already been constructed without approval, violating the Forest Conservation Act.

An FIR was filed against a Visvesvaraya Jala Nigam Ltd engineer, but satellite images show most violations occurred after the case was registered in 2019. The panel has directed penal action under Sections 3A/3B.

Inspectors found deep vertical cuts up to 18 metres, partially lined slopes vulnerable to landslides, and 42.3 lakh cubic metres of excavated debris dumped over 210 acres of forest.

The committee rejected the state's earlier request to use 103 hectares of forest as dumping sites, insisting on non-forest land and removal of dumped muck.

The canal passes through Marashettihalli Reserve Forest, requiring the felling of thousands of valuable trees. Officials warned that the 28–60 metre-wide, 18 metre-deep canal could trap elephants and other wildlife unless properly fenced and fitted with crossings. Villagers have also complained of blasting damage without compensation.

The panel said no further forest diversion can be considered until full compliance with earlier conditions, stressing that financial costs cannot justify environmental violations.

It asked the state to examine alternatives such as tunnels or cut-and-cover designs to reduce forest loss. *—PTI*

HM to act against 'VVIP treatment' for jail inmates

BENGALURU, 9 NOV

Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara on Sunday assured of strict action against jail officials who allegedly allowed "VVIP treatment" of inmates, including ISIS terrorists and rapists, to continue in Bengaluru central jail.

The Home Minister sought a report from additional director general of police (ADGP) B Dayanada on the allegations.

A purported viral video showed inmates in Parappanna Agrahara Jail, also known as Bengaluru Central jail, enjoying "VVIP treatment" such as getting unauthorised use of mobile phones, TV and such inside the prison. However, the exact time when the video was recorded is not known.

Multiple officials were suspended across Karnataka, including in Mangaluru and Belagavi and also in the Central jail too following reports of VVIP treatment given to inmates, he said.

The State government has also approved the installation of additional CCTV cameras and network jammers. If the report is not satisfactory, he will form another committee and take "immediate corrective measures."

"Whether a terrorist or anyone else, they should not have access to a phone or any of these facilities inside a jail. There is no point in calling it a jail if you give them such facilities. A few people are saying the video is old. Be it old or new, such things should never happen. I will try my best to take strict action against this," he said. *—ANI*

GROUNDNUT FAIR

People purchase groundnuts at Malleshwaram during the four-day event of Kadalekai Parishe (Groundnut Fair) near Kadu Malleshwara Temple in Bengaluru on Sunday *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

MB Patil blames Center over sugarcane price

VIJAYPURA, 9 NOV

Karnataka Minister MB Patil clarified that the state government does not have a significant role in the sugarcane pricing issue and asserted that the central government must examine the matter, underlining that the Centre fixes the fair and remunerative price (FRP) and maximum retail price (MRP).

He said the Chief Minister has clearly declared a support price of Rs 3,300, though there still exists confusion about it among the people.

Targeting the Central Government's "shortcomings", he accused them of manipulating the farmers against the State Government and urged for a delegation.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah also criticised the Centre for neglecting the issue of sugarcane pricing, stating that lakhs of farmers across the state are in distress due to the widening gap between cultivation costs and price realisation.

He highlighted the slow growth in sugarcane prices under the current regime and noted that the FRP per quintal has increased at only 4.47 per cent since 2014, compared to a 12.96 per cent rise during the UPA era. *—ANI*

Guv urges youth to be job creators

MYSURU, 9 NOV

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on Sunday urged young people to become job creators to help build a self-reliant and developed India by 2047.

Speaking at the 16th Convocation of JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, in the presence of Vice President CP Radhakrishnan, he said youth must guide society through innovation and entrepreneurship. Gehlot said India's rich knowledge traditions and said the National Education Policy had reintroduced ancient disciplines such as Ayurveda, Yoga and Philosophy into modern education.

Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot & VP CP Radhakrishnan *PHOTO: SALAR*

Gehlot paid tribute to the late Suttur Mutt pontiff Shivaratri Rajendra Mahaswamiji for his work in education, food security & health, and lauded current pontiff Shivaratri Deshikendra Mahaswamiji for continuing the legacy.

A total of 2,925 students graduated, and 16 gold medallists were honoured. *—Salar News*

VP calls Shravanabelagola a symbol of spirituality

HASSAN, 9 NOV

Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Sunday paid homage to Jain monk Acharya Shri Shanti Sagar Maharaj at Shravanabelagola and said the sacred land stood the test of time as a "symbol of spirituality, peace and renunciation".

Speaking at the commemoration of the Acharya, Radhakrishnan said that the Kannadigas always protected its tradition, heritage and culture.

He described Shravanabelagola as one of the most venerated Jain pilgrim centres, where the eternal light of truth of the ideas of Jain Dharma continues to inspire.

He said present pontiff of Shravanabelagola Math, Swasti Sri Charukirti Bhattaraka Swami 's role was critical to the success of the four grand Maha Mastakabhisheka of Lord Bahubali, the last one in 2018 attended by millions of devotees. *—PTI*

NE FUSION CARNIVAL

People with their traditional dress attend the North-East Fusion Carnival 2025, held to showcase the cultural heritage, unity and diversity of the seven Northeastern states, in the City *PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD*

Bike taxi driver held for harassing woman rider

BENGALURU, 9 NOV

A driver of a ride-hailing platform accused of harassing a woman passenger while she was returning to her accommodation has been arrested, police said on Sunday.The incident that allegedly occurred on 6 November, came to light after the woman posted about it on social media. The police's social media monitoring team noticed the post and contacted her for details. The police filed a case the next day and are conducting an investigation in the matter. The accused has been identified as Lokesh, 28. He is a resident of Muniyappa Layout in Ullal in the City. The woman was returning to her paying guest accomodation from Church Street when the incident occurred. *—PTI*

WEEKS-LONG SEARCH

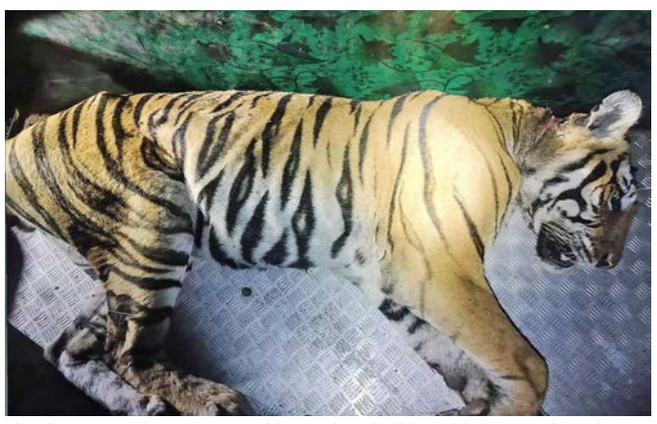
After 3 deaths, tiger captured in Bandipur

MYSURU, 9 NOV

A male tiger suspected to be connected to three deaths in the Hediyala, Moleyur and Nugu forest belts was captured by the Forest Department on Saturday night in Saragur taluk, following an extensive search across the Bandipur–Nagarahole landscape.

The tiger, around 12–13 years old, was found with multiple wounds and severely worn teeth.

Officials said its weakened condition likely reduced its ability to hunt wild prey, bringing it closer to human settlements and triggering livestock depredation and escalating fear in several forest-fringe villages over the past month.



The tiger, around 12–13 years old, was found with multiple wounds and severely worn teeth *PHOTO: SALAR*

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre confirmed the capture and ordered a DNA analysis to verify whether the tiger is indeed linked to the three deaths. "The victims' post-mortem reports and the tiger's DNA profile must be cross-verified before conclusions are drawn," he said.

Combing operations had intensified in recent days, with safari services in Bandipur and Nagarahole suspended and personnel redirected to assist.

Teams from multiple ranges, supported by trained capture units, participated in the effort. A night-patrol squad equipped with a Rapid Response Team vehicle monitored vulnerable zones and issued safety alerts, while leaflets outlining precautions were circulated among villagers.

Though the capture has provided some relief, authorities have urged residents in forest-edge areas to remain cautious. The minister has directed officials to continue combing operations to prevent any further conflict. *—Salar News*

Drunk driver crashes into Kerala minister's car

T'PURAM, 9 NOV

Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal escaped unhurt after his official car was struck by a vehicle allegedly driven by a drunken man near Vamanapuram on Saturday night. The incident occurred around 10pm while the minister was travelling from Kottarakkara to Thiruvananthapuram. Police said the car, attempting to overtake another vehicle, first collided with a car ahead before hitting the minister's vehicle. Although minister and staff were unharmed, the car sustained significant damage. The driver, identified as Mathew Thomas, 45, of Elanthoor, was confirmed to be intoxicated, and was arrested, but later released on bail. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Punjab AAP MLA, accused of rape, flees to Australia

PATIALA, 9 NOV

Punjab AAP MLA Harmit Singh Pathanmajra, absconding since 2 September in a rape case, is believed to have fled to Australia after appearing in a video interview with an Australia-based Punjabi channel. The Punjab Police had issued a lookout notice after several failed raids. In the interview, the Sanour MLA denied the allegations, claiming the case was a "political conspiracy" and saying he would return only after obtaining bail. A Patiala court has already begun proclaimed offender proceedings against him. Pathanmajra earlier escaped custody during an attempted arrest in Haryana's Karnal district. The case, filed by a Zirakpur woman, accuses him of rape, cheating, alleging he deceived her into a relationship while already married. *—PTI*

PHOTO: ANI

Ajit Pawar assures truth in Pune land deal investigation

PUNE, 9 NOV

Maharashtra Deputy CM Ajit Pawar has said an inquiry is underway into the alleged illegal sale of government land in Pune to a company linked to his son, Parth. The 40-acre land in Mundhwa was reportedly sold for Rs 300 crore to Amadea Enterprises, where Parth is a partner. Two FIRs have been filed, though he is not named. Pawar said the sale deed has been cancelled and the truth will soon be revealed. CM Devendra Fadnavis confirmed that action is being taken strictly as per law. Opposition parties claim the land, valued at Rs 1,800 crore, was sold sans proper approval. Officials said the firm must pay Rs 42 crore in stamp duty to cancel deal. *—PTI*

BJP youth leader, friend die in car crash in MP's Katni

KATNI, 9 NOV

A BJP youth wing leader and his friend died after their speeding car hit a parked autorickshaw and plunged into a pond in Madhya Pradesh's Katni district on Saturday night. Police said Prashant Nayak, 28, Bilhari Mandal president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha, was returning home with friends Vikas Tiwari, Abhishek Chaurasia and Aman Tamrakar when the accident occurred near Laxman Sagar pond, about 22km from Katni. Nayak and Tiwari drowned after being trapped inside the submerged car, while Chaurasia and Tamrakar managed to swim to safety. The car and bodies were recovered around 3am. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the incident. *—PTI*

Shah: Oppn making infiltrators' corridor

Says PM envisioning defence corridor in state

SASARAM/ARWAL, 9 NOV

Union Home Minister Amit Shah addresses a public meeting during Bihar Assembly elections, in Arwal district **PHOTO: PTI**

- Union Minister Amit Shah predicted the National Democratic Alliance's sweeping victory, saying, "This is my 37th rally in Bihar — Lalu Prasad and his allies will be wiped out in the first phase itself"

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday accused the INDIA bloc of attempting to create a "corridor for infiltrators", contrasting it with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of building an "industrial and defence corridor" in Bihar to spur economic growth and local employment.

Addressing rallies in Sasaram and Arwal on the last day of campaigning for the second phase of the state polls, Shah said, "Recently, Rahul Gandhi and Lalu's son took out a 'Voter Adhikar Yatra' — not to help the poor or Dalits, but to protect infiltrators."

He asserted that the opposition's "vote bank politics" was undermining national security and declared, "Mortar shells that will be dropped on Pakistan will soon be made in Bihar."

Dismissing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "vote theft" allegations, Shah said, "If there is vote chori, why hasn't he filed a complaint with the Election Commission?"

The home minister accused previous Congress and RJD governments of inaction against terrorism, contrasting it with the Modi government's "decisive" counter-strikes.

He also alleged that the opposition had "tried to stall" the Ram temple construction in Ayodhya, where "a shrine was destroyed by Babur 550 years ago".

Shah predicted the National Democratic Alliance's sweeping victory, saying, "This is my 37th rally in Bihar — Lalu Prasad and his allies will be wiped out in the first phase itself."

Cautioning voters of Bihar against complacency, he warned that the opposition, including the CPI(ML) Liberation, could "revive Left insurgency" if given power.

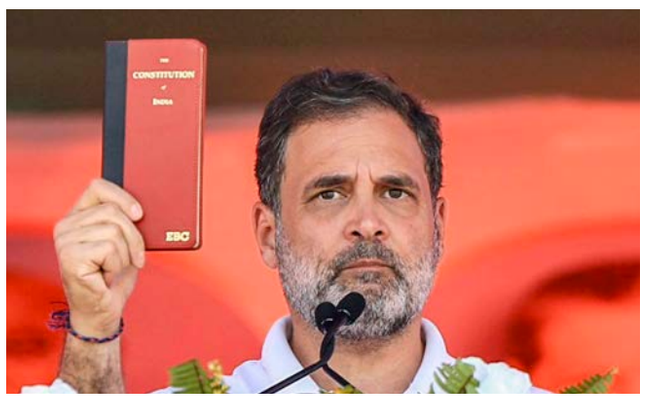
"Press the EVM button with such force that it sends shockwaves to Italy," Minister Shah quipped, taking a dig at Congress leadr Rahul Gandhi's lineage

Union Minister Amit Shah also lauded Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for "20 years in power without a trace of corruption and a legacy of governance." *—PTI*

SIR move to legalise 'vote theft': RaGA

Accuses EC, BJP of collusion in voter update

PACHMARHI, 9 NOV



Congress leader Rahul Gandhi holds a copy of the Consitution of India as he addresses a rally, in Kishanganj **PHOTO: PTI**

Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Sunday intensified his attack on the BJP and Election Commission, alleging a "systematic attempt to institutionalise vote theft" through the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Speaking in Madhya Pradesh's Pachmarhi, Gandhi claimed SIR was being used to "cover up large-scale manipulation" in previous polls in Haryana, MP, Maharashtra, and Chhattisgarh.

"We have data showing 25 lakh fake votes in Haryana. The same system operates in other states. The SIR is meant to legitimise it," he alleged, accusing Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Minister Amit Shah, and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh of acting "in partnership" to undermine democracy and weaken BR Ambedkar's Constitution.

At a rally in Kishanganz, Gandhi said, "Modi, Shah and the EC can go anywhere they like, but they will be caught for 'vote chori'." He accused the BJP and RSS of dividing the nation while claiming the INDIA bloc was "uniting it" under a common democratic cause. Gandhi asserted that if people united to stop "vote theft", the alliance would "100 per cent form the next government in Bihar".

Meanwhile, Congress leader Pawan Khera said the NDA had "conceded defeat" in Bihar after high voter turnout in the first phase, alleging officials were shifting important files at the behest of ruling leaders and several minister are vacating their official residences. *— PTI*

GETTING THREATS, ENEMIES MAY KILL ME: TEJ PRATAP

RJD supremo Lalu Prasad's elder son and Janshakti Janta Dal chief Tej Pratap Yadav on Sunday claimed he is facing threats to his life. Yadav, contesting from Mahua in the Bihar assembly polls, told reporters, "My security has been increased. My enemies may target my life. Everyone seems like an enemy." He named no one. The leader, expelled from the RJD by his father on May 25 for six years, had earlier alleged a conspiracy to create a rift between him and his brother Tejashwi. He later deleted a post about being in a relationship, calling it a result of hacking. On Sunday, he wished Tejashwi a happy birthday, saying, "My blessings are with him." *—PTI*

Tarn Taran bypoll: AAP seeks hold, rivals eye upset

TARN TARAN, JAIPUR, 9 NOV

PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

- The party has fielded turncoat Harmeet Singh Sandhu, a three-time MLA who joined AAP in July

Campaigning for two high-stakes bypolls, Tarn Taran in Punjab and Anta in Rajasthan, ended on Sunday evening, setting the stage for polling on 11 November and counting on 14 November. Both contests are being seen as key political tests for the ruling parties in their respective states.

In Punjab, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) is seeking to retain the Tarn Taran assembly seat, which fell vacant after the death of MLA Kashmir Singh Sohal. The party has fielded turncoat Harmeet Singh Sandhu, a three-time MLA who joined AAP in July.

The Congress has nominated district chief Karanbir Singh Burj, while the Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD) has put forward retired principal Sukhwinder Kaur Randhawa. The BJP has chosen district president Harjit Singh Sandhu. AAP's campaign, led by Arvind Kejriwal and Bhagwant Mann, sought to frame the contest as a vote for border-region development, while rival parties targeted the state government over law and order and drug issues.

In Rajasthan's Anta constituency, the bypoll has turned into a prestige battle for Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma and former CMs Vasundhara Raje and Ashok Gehlot. The BJP's Morpal Suman, Congress' Pramod Jain Bhaya, and Independent Naresh Meena are the main contenders. Raje and Sharma jointly campaigned to project party unity, while Gehlot pitched the poll as a test of welfare-driven governance. Meena's growing influence among tribal voters has added a twist to the triangular fight.

Both bypolls, observers say, could serve as early barometers of political sentiment ahead of the 2026 local body elections. *—PTI*

Tharoor defends Advani over Rath Yatra

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor has defended former Deputy Prime Minister Lal Krishna Advani's policy legacy, asserting that no political figure should be defined solely by a single event.

Tharoor, wishing Advani a Happy 98th Birthday on 8 November, drew parallels to historical leaders, stating, "Reducing his long years of service to one episode, however significant, is also unfair."

"The totality of Nehruji's career cannot be judged by the China setback, nor Indira Gandhi's by the Emergency alone. I believe we should extend the same courtesy to Advaniji," he added.

Tharoor praised Advani for his "unwavering commitment to public service, modesty, and his role in shaping the trajectory of modern India," describing him as a "true statesman whose life of service has been exemplary."

However, the remarks attracted criticism, particularly from Supreme Court Advocate Sanjay Hedge, who contended that Advani's role in the 1990 Ram Rath Yatra incited communal tensions and could not be considered public service. Hedge stated, "Sorry Mr Tharoor, unleashing the 'dragon seeds of hatred'... is not public service."

MP Shashi Tharoor and Lal Krishna Advani **PHOTO: X/Shashi Tharoor**

The online debate highlighted the controversial nature of the Rath Yatra, a key event calling for the construction of the Ram Janmabhoomi temple, and led to Advani's arrest. Congress leader Tharoo maintained that Advani's legacy deserves a nuanced evaluation, akin to those of Nehru and Gandhi. *—PTI*

VANDE MATARAM ROW

Congress cites old CWC note, claims Modi insulted Tagore

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

The Congress party intensified its criticism of Prime Minister Narendra Modi following his remarks about the national song "Vande Mataram." Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh claimed the PM has "insulted" the Congress Working Committee (CWC) of 1937, which addressed the song, as well as Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore.

Ramesh expressed his astonishment on X, stating, "The Prime Minister has insulted this CWC as also Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore." He further condemned the Prime Minister's focus on past events rather than pressing contemporary issues, highlighting growing economic inequalities and high unemployment rates in India.

The PM's comments came during a celebration marking the song's 150th anniversary, where he stated that stanzas had been removed in 1937, contributing to a "divisive mindset." Ramesh countered that Tagore had recommended adopting only the first two stanzas, calling Modi's accusations against the poet "shameful."

In a letter to Jawaharlal Nehru, Tagore noted, "The spirit of tenderness and devotion expressed in its first portion... made a special appeal." The Congress has called for an apology from Modi for his remarks. *—PTI*

PM unveils Rs 8K cr works in Uttarakhand

DEHRADUN, 9 NOV

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for various projects in Uttarakhand, marking the 25th anniversary of the state's formation.

The initiatives are valued at Rs 8,260 crore and span multiple sectors, such as drinking water, irrigation, technical education, and sports. Modi praised the state government's "bold" efforts on the uniform civil code and demographic changes, urging other states to follow suit.

He noted that Uttarakhand's budget has increased from Rs 4,000 crore to over Rs 1 lakh crore in 25 years and expressed confidence that the state can become the "spiritual capital of the world."

The PM highlighted ongoing infrastructure projects worth Rs 2 lakh crore, including the Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project and the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway. He encouraged the development of wellness tourism and homestays, envisioning every village as a mini tourist hub. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and other senior leaders attended the event in Dehradun. *—PTI*

Ensure no eligible voter is missed during SIR: Stalin

CHENNAI, 9 NOV

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin on Sunday called upon his party men to ensure none among the eligible voters are missed out during the ongoing SIR in the state. His interaction with the public revealed that awareness on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls among the people was inadequate.

During a virtual interaction with the ruling party's district secretaries from Anna Arivalayam, the DMK headquarters here, Stalin instructed the party functionaries and those in-charge of the constituencies to be vigilant in SIR related work.

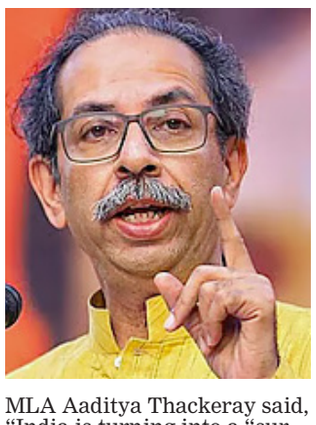
The DMK has been opposing it claiming that the massive exercise might result in the removal of voters from the minority community.

Chairing the video conference meeting, Minister said that not even a single eligible voter's name should be left out in the SIR campaign and opt out ineligible ones. *—PTI*

SECURITY BREACH?

Drone spotted over Uddhav's home; cops cite MMRDA survey

MUMBAI, 9 NOV



MLA Aaditya Thackeray said, "India is turning into a "surveillance state" **PHOTO: PTI**

A political row erupted on Sunday after Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) faction leader Anil Parab claimed a drone was spotted hovering over 'Matoshree', the Bandra residence of party chief and former Maharashtra chief minister Uddhav Thackeray, raising concerns of a security breach.

Parab said the police must identify the drone operator and determine the motive behind the "aerial filming". He questioned whether there was any "terrorist background" to the incident, stressing that flying a drone in such a high-security zone without prior approval was a grave violation.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone 8) Manish Kalwaniya clarified that the drone was part of an MMRDA-sanctioned survey in the nearby Bandra-Kurla Complex area. "Please avoid misinformation," he said.

Uddhav's son and Sena (UBT) leader Aaditya Thackeray, however, called the incident "shameful", alleging that India was turning into a "surveillance state". In a post on social media platform X, he said the drone hovered at window level before flying off once it was being recorded.

He questioned why residents were not informed in advance if the drone was part of a survey, asking, "By not informing us, how many people's homes have they looked into?" Drawing a parallel with the Election Commission's rules on voter privacy, Aaditya said no government agency could justify such "police-state actions" under the pretext of a survey.

Uddhav recently toured rain-hit Marathwada, attacking Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis over inadequate relief and reiterating the Opposition's demand for crop compensation and a loan waiver. *—PTI*

9 detained in Kashmir amid terror crackdown

JAMMU/SRINAGAR, 9 NOV

Nine people, including a woman, were detained as Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) launched coordinated raids across Srinagar, Kulgam, Baramulla, Shopian and Pulwama in a major crackdown on online terror networks.

Acting on credible inputs, the agency seized SIM cards, mobile phones and other digital devices allegedly used to radicalise youth and glorify terrorism.

Officials said the recovered material will aid further investigation. Simultaneously, police across Jammu and Kashmir inspected SIM vendor outlets to curb unauthorised distribution and enforce KYC compliance. Vendors were told to keep complete customer records. Meanwhile, two Special Police Officers in Kathua were dismissed for alleged terror links, marking a broader effort to dismantle extremist networks. *—PTI*

Resort owner held for assaulting Kerala tribal man

PALAKKAD, 9 NOV

A resort owner who had been on the run following allegations of assault and unlawful confinement of a tribal man has surrendered at a court in Mannarkkad. Prabhu, 40, owner of a resort in Edukkupara, appeared before the Special Court for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Cases on Saturday. The offences occurred on 21 August when Vellayan, a resident of Moochakundu, was rescued from the resort after being allegedly assaulted and locked up for consuming liquor. The victim claimed he was fed only once a day and routinely beaten. Another worker discovered him confined and informed Dalit activists, prompting police intervention. The police will seek Prabhu's custody for interrogation. *—PTI*

Kerala govt to hold talks with doctors on strike

T'PURAM, 9 NOV

The health department will hold talks on Monday with the Kerala Government Medical College Teachers' Association (KGMCTA), which has called a total strike over long-pending service issues, officials said. Health Minister Veena George will chair the meeting aimed at averting the strike, they added. The association said members would abstain from all duties except emergency services. Its demands include payment of pay revision arrears since 2016, correction of salary anomalies, filling existing vacancies, creation of new posts, and improved infrastructure at medical colleges. Discussions are underway to resolve the dispute. The KGMCTA earlier staged an outpatient boycott last month, alleging government inaction despite repeated protests over their unmet demands. *—PTI*

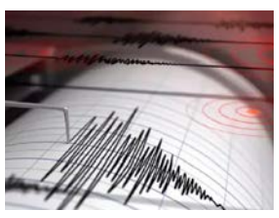


PHOTO: ANI

5.4 magnitude earthquake shakes Andaman Sea

PORT BLAIR, 9 NOV

An earthquake of magnitude 5.4 struck the Andaman Sea at 12.06pm on Sunday, the National Center for Seismology (NCS) reported. The tremor, recorded at a depth of 90km, was felt across parts of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, though no casualties or damage were reported. The NCS said in an 'X' post, "EQ of M: 5.4, On: 09/11/2025, Lat: 12.49 N, Long: 93.83 E, Depth: 90 Km, Location: Andaman Sea." The seismology centre added that deep-focus quakes like this usually cause less impact on the surface as compared to shallow ones. Last week, a 4.1 magnitude quake occurred in Leh at a depth of 10km, the agency said, urging continued seismic monitoring. *—PTI*

UP couple held for killing daughter for family 'honour'

PRAYAGRAJ, 9 NOV

A couple has been arrested for allegedly killing their 15-year-old daughter in an honour killing in Kanti village, police said on Sunday. The body of the girl, identified as Sarita, was found near bushes on 6 November, a day after her murder, said Deputy Commissioner of Police (Yamuna Nagar) Vivek Yadav. During questioning, her father Ramesh initially misled investigators but later confessed to the crime, saying he was enraged as Sarita continued to interact with boys from the village despite warnings. On the night of 5 November, her mother allegedly gave her sedatives before Ramesh slit her throat with a sharp weapon. "This is a case of honour killing," Yadav said, adding both parents are in police custody. *—PTI*

Family accuse hospital of mishandling rape case

Say she was bleeding from pvt part; docs did not alert cops

>>>CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The family accused hospital staff of mishandling the case, claiming the girl was bleeding from her private parts and that authorities failed to immediately alert the police. They said when they later approached the police station, officials allegedly asked them to leave.

Police brought the child back to the hospital for further medical tests, prompting BJP leaders and workers to storm the premises in protest. They accused both police and doctors of negligence.

Local TMC MLA Ramendu Singha Roy told PTI, "It is a shocking incident, but it took place in an area under the jurisdiction of the Railways. There should be more security measures and surveillance on the part of the rail police. We stand with the girl's family, and the police have started a probe."

National Commission for Women member Archana Majumdar said it has taken suo motu cognisance of the incident, but "we will examine the legal parametres, as it also comes under the jurisdiction of the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights. If permitted, I will visit the family in a day or two".

BJP workers protest against the inaction of police and state government in the rape of the minor girl in a hospital in Hooghly *PHOTO: PTI*

Meanwhile, Leader of Opposition in the assembly, Suvendu Adhikari, alleged that the Tarakeshwar Police were initially reluctant to register an FIR over the incident.

BJP activists also staged a protest demonstration outside the Tarakeshwar police station, demanding stringent punishment for the perpetrators.

- Police brought the child back to the hospital for further medical tests, prompting BJP leaders and workers to storm the premises in protest againt negligence by doctors and police.

In another case, A pro-Bengali advocacy group on Sunday staged a rally at Dumdum here demanding exemplary punishment for three youths accused of sexually torturing a 14-year-old girl in the area recently.

The accused, Rajesh Paswan, Vicky Paswan, and Sanju Sai, are in police custody in connection with the alleged abduction and assault of the class 8 student, who was allegedly taken to a hideout while returning from tuition and later dropped near her residence in the last week of October. They were booked under POCSO Act. *—PTI*

BIGGEST EVICTION

Assam govt evicts 600 Muslim families from forest land

GOALPARA, 9 NOV

The Assam government on Sunday began an eviction drive to clear alleged encroachment on 1,140 bighas (over 376 acres) of the Dahikata Reserve Forest in Goalpara district, affecting nearly 600 families.

This is the biggest eviction drive ti be conducted in the state so far.

According to Goalpara District Commissioner Prodip Timung, the exercise is going "on peacefully" to clear the encroached area.

The authorities had issued notices to 580 families, mostly from the Bengali-speaking Muslim community, who had encroached on the land.

Around 70 per cent of the "illegal settlers" of the area have already left the place after getting the notices, while the remaining are in the process of vacating their houses, Timung said.

The district administration engaged adequate security personnel and used dozens of excavators along with scores of tractors during the eviction exercise.

The eviction drive is underway as per the Gauhati High Court directives, with three petitions regarding the operation heard earlier by the court.

Abdul Karim, one of the affected people, claimed that the people in the area have been living there for several decades."We are not illegal immigrants We have Aadhaar cards and all land documents," he said.

Special chief secretary (forest) MK Yadava claimed that the evicted area falls under the elephant corridor and clearing of the land will help reduce man-animal conflict.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma had said that 1.29 lakh bighas were cleared of encroachment and around 29 lakh bighas) of land are still encroached in the state. *—PTI*

Students of the Saraswathi Vidyalaya singing onboard the Ernakulam-Bengaluru Vande Bharat Express *PHOTO: SCREENGRAB*

Kerala to probe singing of RSS song aboard train

T'VANANTHAPURAM, 9 NOV

The Kerala government has initiated an inquiry into reports that school students were made to sing an RSS song aboard the newly inaugurated Vande Bharat Express from Ernakulam to Bengaluru. General Education Minister V Sivankutty has instructed the director of public instructions to investigate the incident, highlighting the seriousness of the matter.

Sivankutty stated, "Politicising children at government events to promote the communal agenda of any particular group is a violation of constitutional principles." He emphasised the need for the government to uphold secular values, stating, "Steps will be taken to ensure that these principles are protected."

Union Minister Suresh Gopi defended the children's performance as an "innocent celebration," asserting that the song was not extremist.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan condemned the act, labelling it a violation of constitutional values and accusing the Sangh Parivar of using public institutions to promote communal politics. The incident has sparked widespread criticism, leading the Southern Railway to withdraw a related social media post before later clarifying that the students were performing a school song. *—PTI*

CLASS 11 BOY SHOOTS CLASSMATE WITH FATHER'S GUN IN GURUGRAM

GURUGRAM, 9 NOV

A class 11 student was shot at allegedly by his classmate using his father's licensed pistol in a flat in Sector 48 in Gurugram in Haryana.

The bullet got lodged in the 17-year-old student's neck, and his condition remains critical. He is being treated at a hospital.

An FIR was registered and two minor students were apprehended. One pistol, two magazines, 70 cartridges, and a bullet shell were recovered from the spot.

The incident occurred on 8 November when a spat broke out between the three classmates in the accused's flat, following which one of them allegedly shot another.

Th injured student mother said the accused shot him with the intention to kill. He held a grudge against the victim. *—PTI*

Toxic air chokes Delhi as AQI crosses 400

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

Delhiites woke up to another day of toxic air on Sunday, with pollution levels being alarmingly high.

Data from the Air Quality Early Warning System showed an air quality index (AQI) of 392, with several areas crossing the 400 mark, making Delhi one of the most polluted cities.

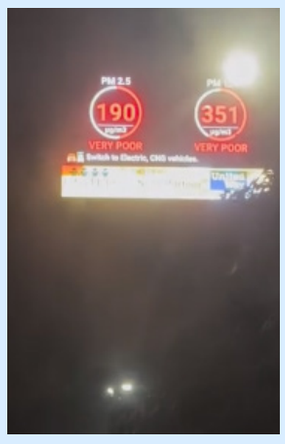
According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) placed the city in the 'red zone' with an AQI of 361 on 8 November.

According to the Sameer app at 7 am on Sunday, 21 of Delhi's 39 monitoring stations recorded an AQI of 400 or above, indicating 'severe' pollution levels.

Noida recorded an AQI of 354, Greater Noida 336, and Ghaziabad 339 – all in the 'very poor' category.

Officials said Delhi has so far managed to stay below the pollution levels that had prompted the enforcement of Stage III of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in 2024.

Fine and coarse particulate matter emitted from vehicular exhaust and industrial activities pose health hazards. *—Agencies*

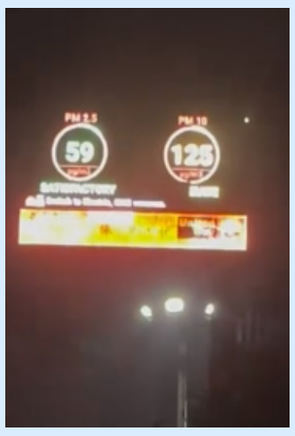


WHEN YOU CAN'T IMPROVE THE AIR, CHANGE THE DATA

Instead of tackling air pollution, the Haryana government is manipulating air-quality monitors to alter readings, or so alleges a viral Instagram video by creator Sarthak Vishnoii. The clip shows him and a friend driving past Gurugram's Tau Devi Lal Park, where their portable device records an AQI of 190–351(pic on left), categorised as "very poor."

They then take a U-turn and shift to the opposite lane, where the AQI plummets to 59 (pic on right). Pointing to the drastic contrast within metres, they remark, "Sarkar ko chori bhi theek se karni nahi aati."

There are similar allegations in Delhi, where viral clips show PWD water tankers spraying roads next to AQI monitoring stations. *—Salar News*



Goa job scam: Accused claims role of minister, officer

PANAJI, 9 NOV

An accused in the Goa cash-for-jobs scam has alleged that a state minister, a senior IAS officer and an engineer were involved in the racket, prompting Chief Minister Pramod Sawant to assure a thorough investigation into the matter.

Puja Naik, one of the accused, posted a video on social media alleging the involvement of a minister from the Sawant-led cabinet and two others in the multi-crore scam.

She claimed that she had been collecting money from victims on behalf of the minister, a senior IAS officer and an engineer, who are yet to return around Rs 17 crore.

Sawant said that the police would record Naik's statement and warned of "strict action" against the guilty. *—PTI*

KIN DEMAND JUSTICE

40-year-old woman dies after rape attempt by 14-yr-old boy

SHIMLA, 9 NOV

In a shocking incident, a 40-year-old woman succumbed to injuries sustained during an alleged rape attempt, prompting her family and local villagers to block the Hamirpur-Dharamshala national highway near Khaniyara village in Himachal Pradesh, demanding justice.

The incident occurred on 3 November in Sasan village, where the woman was attacked while cutting grass.

According to police, a 14-year-old accused, a Class 9 student, attempted to sexually assault her and brutally injured her with a stick and sickle when she resisted. After suffering severe injuries, she passed away on Friday at PGI Chandigarh, five days post-attack.

- A 14-year-old Class 9 student, attempted to sexually assault her and brutally injured her with a stick and sickle when she resisted him. After suffering severe injuries, she passed away on at a Chandigarh hospital on 7 November, five days after the assault.

The juvenile, who has confessed to the crime, is currently in a juvenile home. The police are investigating further, having discovered evidence at the crime scene, including a broken pen and a scale.

Family members are calling for strict action against the accused. *—PTI*

MULTIPLE FAKE ACCOUNTS

Actor Anupama sues 20-yr-old for sharing morphed photos

KOCHI, 9 NOV

Actress Anupama Parameswaran on Sunday said she has initiated legal action against a woman from Tamil Nadu for allegedly circulating morphed pictures of her and making baseless allegations on social media.

She announced the decision through her Instagram account.

Parameswaran said she recently came across an Instagram profile that was sharing "extremely inappropriate and false content" about her and her family while tagging her friends and co-actors.

"The posts included morphed pictures and baseless allegations—it was deeply distressing to witness such targeted harassment online," she said.

She added that further investigation revealed the same individual had created multiple fake accounts to spread similar false claims against her.

Parameswaran said she subsequently filed a complaint with the cyber crime Police in Kerala. "Their response was prompt and efficient, and with their assistance, the person behind these activities was identified," she said.

The accused turned out to be a 20-year-old woman from Tamil Nadu.

"Considering her young age, I have chosen not to disclose her identity, as I do not wish to compromise her future or peace of mind," Parameswaran said.

"Cyberbullying is a punishable offence," she said. *—PTI*

81 arrested for cyber offences in Telangana

HYDERABAD, 9 NOV

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) announced the arrest of 81 individuals, including 7 women, during a coordinated operation across multiple states targeting cyber offences.

The operation, which took place over 25 days in October, is linked to 41 cases registered under the TGCSB Cyber Crime Police Stations (CCPS), uncovering 754 crime links throughout India, with 128 originating in Telangana, involving fraud worth Rs 95 crore.

TGCSB Director Shikha Goel revealed that 17 suspects acted as agents, while others were involved in cheque and cash withdrawals totalling Rs 34,70,900. Additionally, 53 were mule account holders, earning commissions on fraudulent transactions.

The investigation has identified numerous individuals with ties to foreign operatives, prompting the issuance of Look-Out Circulars.

The arrested range from bank employees to students, illustrating the widespread impact of cybercrime. TGCSB emphasised its commitment to dismantling the infrastructure facilitating these crimes and urged the public to remain vigilant against emerging cyber-fraud methods. *—PTI*

SC to hear on MP judicial service rules' amendment

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

The Supreme Court is set to hear a challenge against a Madhya Pradesh High Court ruling that annulled an amendment to the Madhya Pradesh Higher Judicial Service (Recruitment and Conditions of Service) Rules, 1994.

Originally introduced in 2015, the amendment permitted the High Court to appoint district judges from the district court if qualified candidates from the Bar quota were unavailable after two consecutive examinations.

The Madhya Pradesh High Court's registrar general filed the petition seeking a stay on the order. From 2011 to 2015, only 11 out of 304 vacancies were filled through direct recruitment. *—PTI*

DINOSAUR FOSSILS IN UP

A fossil believed to be of a Triceratops, the three-horned dinosaur, has been excavated along the banks of the Sahansara River in Saharanpur district of Uttar Pradesh. The excavation in the area revealed what experts believe could be the nasal horn of a Triceratops, dating back millions of years. These dinosaurs were generally found during the Late Cretaceous period, 100.5 million years ago to 66 million years ago

PHOTO: SCREENGRAB

Jungle Raj: Ghost of Bihar's past or a political weapon?

In the current Bihar elections, fierce battles are being fought between key political rivals on campaign grounds, social media platforms, TV studios, and also in people's memories.

In the battlefield of public memories, perhaps no other phrase has become a greater political weapon than the oft-repeated label of 'jungle raj', a term frequently used by leaders of the JD(U) and its main ally BJP to attack the RJD and the opposition alliance.

The ruling NDA's leaders in the state and at the Centre, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Minister Nitish Kumar have invoked the infamous epithet or its political connotation on several occasions during the campaigns.

Leading a full-frontal attack on the INDIA bloc and its key constituent RJD, in the run-up to the first phase of the 2025 Assembly polls, from elections rallies on ground to online interactions with booth-level workers, Modi has repeatedly urged voters to "keep 'jungle raj' at bay" and asked to "spread awareness about 'jungle raj' that was," among the youth.

The phrase is used and reused by the ruling alliance's leaders to refer to the alleged lawlessness and poor administration during the rule of Lalu Prasad and subsequently, his wife Rabri Devi in the 1990s.

A day after the end of phase one of the polls, Modi continued the political onslaught while campaigning in Bhabhua in south Bihar's Kaimur district on Friday, and in an election rally, took a 'jungle raj' swipe at RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav, the INDIA bloc CM face, and son of Lalu Prasad. While it has been 20 years since the Nitish government first came to power, riding on the assertion that he "ended the 'jungle raj' and reestablished the rule of law", the battle of political oneupmanship, especially during elections, keeps this ghost of the past alive.

Elections to the 121 seats of the 243-member assembly were held on 6 November, while the remaining 122 constituencies will go to polls on 11 November ***PHOTO: PTI***

During high-decibel election rallies or high-octane political debates on TV channels, NDA leaders often invoke the infamous phrase, sometimes multiple times in a day or in an address, and ask voters, "Do you want to see the return of 'jungle raj' in Bihar?"

RJD leaders and its two fiery national spokespersons, both women, have countered this acidulous barb, and accused that the law and order situation has "worsened" under the Nitish government in the past 20 years.

BJP-JD(U) keep harping on 'jungle raj', "trying to scare voters, because this is their narrative". If they had done something for people, especially the poor and the underprivileged, they would not have needed "this way to seek votes", RJD national spokesperson Priyanka Bharti has stressed multiple times in TV debates.

A section of residents in Patna, including old persons or adults in their 30s and 40s, who were either in schools, colleges or working in the capital city in the 1990s, said the law and order situation has "improved a lot" since then.

Political trend watchers said it is this sense of "voter anxieties" and a "baggage of the past" attached with RJD that its rivals capitalise on, drawing battlelines even in public memory.

At a rally in Jamui on Friday, Shah alleged that during the Lalu-Rabri rule, "criminals ran amok, kidnappings happened and massacres took place", and 'jungle raj' "shut factories and businesses, and impoverished Bihar".

On 4 November, in an election rally in Darbhanga, he sought to "remind people of 'jungle raj', and appealed to them to choose the "lotus symbol to stop 'jungle raj'".

Shah told local masses, by "assuming a disguise", 'jungle raj' wants to stealthily come back, a reference to Mahagathbandhan's bid to wrest power from the NDA.

While this oft-repeated and often-in the-news term has assumed a different connotation today, many old-timers in Patna recall the phrase 'jungle raj' was used in 1997 by the high court while hearing a contempt petition concerning poor civic management in the city.

Elections to the 121 seats of the 243-member assembly were held on 6 November, while the remaining 122 constituencies will go to polls on 11 November. The counting of votes will be held on 14 November.

On the day of the election in Patna, Dr Shakil Kumar and his wife, Dr Anupam, after voting, told PTI that the law and order situation has improved, but allegedly a "lot of it is perception management also" through "selective media reporting of crime cases". *—PTI*

SALAR سالار

Musk the trillionaire? Debate rages over his pay

Elon Musk turned off many potential buyers of his Tesla cars and sent sales plunging with his foray into politics. But the stock has soared anyway and now he wants the company to pay him more -- a lot more.

Shareholders gathered on Thursday for Tesla's annual meeting in Austin, Texas, decided to grant Musk, the company's CEO and already the richest person in the world, enough stock to potentially make him history's first trillionaire.

It's a vote that has sparked heated debate on both sides of the issue, even drawing the pope's comments on it as an example of income inequality.

Several pension funds have come out against the package, arguing that the board of directors is too beholden to Musk, his behaviour too reckless lately and the riches offered too much.

Supporters say Musk is a genius who is the only person capable of ushering in a Tesla-dominated future in which hundreds of thousands of self-driving Tesla cars -- many without steering wheels -- will ferry people and humanoid Tesla robots will march around factories and homes, picking up boxes and watering plants. The pay is necessary to incentivise him, they say, and keep him focused.

Musk has threatened to walk away from the company if he doesn't get what he wants and has blasted some of the package's critics as "corporate terrorists".

WHAT IS UP FOR A VOTE

To get his Tesla shares, Musk has to secure approval from a majority of the company's voting shareholders.

Improving the odds, Musk gets to vote his own shares, worth 15 per cent of the company.

Shareholders first heard about the pay package in September when the board of directors proposed it in a detailed filing to federal securities regulators. The document, running 200 pages, also contains other proposals up for a vote at the meeting, including whether to allow Tesla to invest in another Musk company, xAI, and who should serve on the board in the future.

HOW MUSK CAN GET $1 TRILLION

Musk won't necessarily get all of that money, or even a cent of it, if the package is approved. He first has to meet several operational and financial targets.

To get the full pay, for instance, he has to deliver to the car market 20 million Teslas over 10 years, more than double the number he has churned out over the past dozen years. He also has to massively increase the market value of the company and its operating profits and deliver one million robots, from zero today.

If he falls short of the biggest goals, though, the package could still hand him plenty of money.

Musk will get $50 billion in additional Tesla shares, for example, if he increases the company's market value by 80 per cent, something he did just this past year, as well as doubling vehicle sales and tripling operating earnings -- or hitting any other two of a dozen operational targets.

MUSK VS ROCKEFELLER

Musk is already the richest man in the world with a net worth of $493 billion, according to Forbes magazine, and well ahead of some of the wealthiest of years past.

The steel giant, Andrew Carnegie, was once worth an inflation-adjusted $300 billion, according to the Carnegie Corp., well below Musk's wealth.

Musk is still trailing John D. Rockefeller, but he's closing in fast. The railroad titan hit peak inflation-adjusted wealth of $630 billion in 1913, according to Guinness World Records.

For his part, Musk says it's not really about the money but about getting a higher Tesla stake -- it will double to nearly 30 per cent -- so he can control the company. He says that's a pressing concern given Tesla's future "robot army", a reference to the company's Optimus humanoid workers that he doesn't trust anyone else to control.

SPLIT AMONG SHAREHOLDERS

Many investors have come out in support of the package, including Baron Capital Management, whose founder called Musk indispensable to the company.

"Without his relentless drive and uncompromising standards, there would be no Tesla," wrote founder Ron Baron.

Critics include the biggest in the US public pension fund, Calpers, and Norway's sovereign wealth fund, the world's largest. They argue the pay is excessive, with the Norway fund expressing concern that the board that designed it, which includes Musk's brother, is not independent enough. That echoes a decision from a Delaware court nearly two years ago that blasted the process for approving a previous Musk pay package as "deeply flawed" given his "extensive ties" to directors.

Even the Vatican has weighed in, decrying the wealth gap in the world and blasting the trillion dollar offer in particular. *—PTI*

Elon Musk is already the richest man in the world with a net worth of $493 billion, according to Forbes magazine, and well ahead of some of the wealthiest of years past ***PHOTO: PTI***

LETTERS write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Here's why France's ex-Prez may be released from jail after just 20 days

A court in Paris will decide whether to release France's former president Nicolas Sarkozy from prison on Monday, just 20 days after he was incarcerated.

He was sentenced to five years in prison following his conviction for criminal conspiracy in a scheme to finance his winning 2007 campaign with funds from Libya.

Sarkozy, 70, is the first former president of modern France sentenced to actual time behind bars. He was previously convicted on corruption charges, but was ordered to wear an electronic monitor rather than serve a prison sentence.

Sarkozy's legal team is appealing his conviction and has also filed a request for an early release. An appeal trial is to take place at a later date, possibly in the spring.

On Monday, a court in Paris is to examine his request for release, with a decision expected later that day.

The former president, who served from 2007 to 2012, says he's innocent and contests both the conviction and the decision to incarcerate him pending appeal.

WHY SARKOZY MAY BE RELEASED FROM PRISON

The Paris court found Sarkozy guilty on 25 September, and said the prison sentence was effective immediately. But as soon as he was incarcerated on 21 October, his legal team filed a request for an early release.

A court is to make a decision on Monday based on Article 144 of France's criminal code, which states that release should be the general rule pending appeal, while detention remains the exception, for example, for those considered dangerous or at risk of fleeing to another country, or to protect evidence or prevent pressure on witnesses.

It does not involve the motives for the sentencing.

During Monday's hearing, Sarkozy is expected to provide guarantees that he will comply with justice requirements for conditional release.

If granted, he would be placed under judicial supervision and could be released from La Sante prison in Paris within a few hours.

Former president Nicolas Sarkozy, 70, is the first president of modern France sentenced to actual time behind bars ***PHOTO: PTI***

WHAT SARKOZY HAS BEEN CONVICTED OF

In its 25 September, ruling, a Paris court said Sarkozy, as a presidential candidate and interior minister, used his position "to prepare corruption at the highest level" from 2005 to 2007 with the aim of financing his presidential campaign with funds from Libya — then led by longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi.

The panel of three judges said that Sarkozy's closest associates, Claude Guéant and Brice Hortefeux, held secret meetings in 2005 with Abdullah al-Senoussi, Gadhafi's brother-in-law and intelligence chief, despite the fact that he was "convicted of acts of terrorism committed mostly against French and European citizens."

Al-Senoussi is considered the mastermind of attacks on a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988 and a French airliner over Niger the following year, causing hundreds of deaths. He was convicted in absentia and handed a life sentence by a Paris court in 1999 for the attack on the French UTA Flight 772.

WHY DOES HE SAY IT'S A PLOT

Sarkozy consistently said he is innocent and the victim of "a plot" staged by some people linked to the Libyan government, including what he described as the "Gadhafi clan."

He suggested that the allegations of campaign financing were retaliation for his call — as France's president — for Gadhafi's removal.

Sarkozy was one of the first Western leaders to push for military intervention in Libya in 2011, when Arab Spring pro-democracy protests swept the Arab world.

Gadhafi was toppled and killed in the uprising that same year, ending his four-decade rule of the North African country.

In addition, Sarkozy notes the court cleared him of three other charges — passive corruption, illegal campaign financing and concealing the embezzlement of public funds.

OTHER LEGAL PROCEEDINGS LOOMING

Monday's hearing is not the only legal case pending against Sarkozy.

France's highest court, the Court of Cassation, is set to issue its ruling on 26 November over a separate conviction for illegal campaign financing of Sarkozy's unsuccessful 2012 reelection bid.

An appeals court in Paris last year sentenced Sarkozy to a year in prison, of which six months were suspended.

He is accused of having spent almost twice the maximum legal amount of 22.5 million euros on the reelection bid that he lost to Socialist Francois Hollande.

Sarkozy denied the allegations.

The former president is also at the centre of another judicial investigation related to the Libyan financing case.

French judges filed preliminary charges in 2023 against him for his alleged role in an apparent attempt to pressure a witness in order to clear him. Sarkozy's wife, supermodel-turned singer Carla Bruni-Sarkozy, was also given preliminary charges last year for alleged involvement.

The witness, Ziad Takieddine, was central in accusations that Sarkozy received illegal payments from the Libyan government. He later retracted his statement.

Sarkozy was found guilty of corruption and influence peddling by both a Paris court in 2021 and an appeals court in 2023 for trying to bribe a magistrate in exchange for information about a legal case in which he was implicated. The Court of Cassation later upheld the verdict.

Sarkozy was sentenced to wear an electronic monitoring bracelet for one year.

He was granted a conditional release in May due to his age, which allowed him to remove the electronic tag after just over three months. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

Pak halts Jaffar Express amid Balochistan threats

KARACHI, 9 NOV

Pakistan Railways has suspended the Jaffar Express service between Quetta and Peshawar from 9 to 12 November due to heightened security concerns in Balochistan. Officials said the move follows advice from security and intelligence agencies to protect passengers, staff and vital rail assets. The train has suffered multiple militant attacks in recent months. In March, the banned Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) hijacked it with 380 passengers, killing 26 people. Subsequent blasts in Balochistan and Sindh caused several derailments and injuries. Locals warned the suspension would disrupt travel for thousands who depend on the train, as insurgent groups continue targeting rail routes and infrastructure across the province. *—PTI*

PHOTO: X

4 dead as car fleeing cops slams into bar in Florida

NEW YORK, 9 NOV

Four people were killed and 11 injured early Saturday when a speeding car fleeing police crashed into a crowded bar in Tampa's historic Ybor City district. Police said an air patrol spotted the silver sedan driving recklessly after street racing nearby. Florida Highway Patrol tried a PIT manoeuvre but disengaged as the vehicle sped towards downtown. The driver, 22-year-old Silas Sampson, lost control and hit people outside Bradley's on 7th. Three victims died at the scene and a fourth in hospital. Sampson faces four counts of vehicular homicide and aggravated fleeing. Police Chief Lee Bercaw called it a "senseless tragedy," . *—PTI*

Oppn vows stir as Pak govt pushes 27th Amendment

Critics argue the Constitutional reforms would sideline SC

ISLAMABAD, 9 NOV

Pakistan's Opposition has announced nationwide protests as Parliament prepares to vote on the proposed 27th Constitutional Amendment, a sweeping package critics say will "shake the foundations of the Constitution".

The amendment seeks major structural changes: abolishing the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), creating a new post titled Chief of Defence Forces, establishing a Federal Constitutional Court (FCC), altering the process for appointing high court judges, and granting the president lifelong immunity from criminal proceedings.

It also proposes shifting several powers of the Supreme Court to the new FCC.

Law Minister Azam Nazir Tarar introduced the amendment in the Senate on Saturday, and Chairman Yusuf Raza Gilani referred it to a committee headed by Farooq Naek. The committee aims to build consensus before the bill goes to vote on Monday, where the government is confident of securing the required two-thirds majority of 64 senators.

The Shehbaz Sharif government have pitched the amendment that could grant even more powers to Asim Munir *PHOTO: X*

It must then pass the National Assembly with a similar majority before being sent to the president for assent.

The Opposition alliance, Tehreek-e-Tahafuz Ayeen-e-Pakistan (TTAP), comprising the PTI, Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen (MWM), PkMAP, BNP-M and the Sunni Ittehad Council, said protests would begin Sunday.

MWM leader Allama Raja Nasir Abbas accused the government of paralysing democratic institutions. PkMAP chief Mahmood Khan Achakzai said their slogans would be: "Long live democracy", "down with dictatorship", and a call for release of political prisoners.

Legal experts remain split. Critics argue the reforms would sideline the Supreme Court, with one senior counsel warning the amended Article 175 "virtually ends the judiciary as we knew it".

Others fear expanded executive influence over the judiciary and note the FCC chief would outrank the chief justice of the Supreme Court and serve until 68. *—PTI*

ON THE EDGE

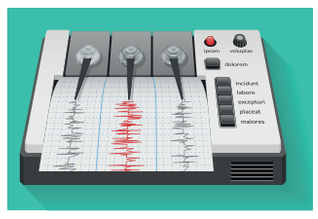
Powerful quake jolts Japan, tsunami alert lifted after 3 hours

TOKYO, 9 NOV

A strong earthquake measuring 6.9 magnitude on the Richter scale struck off the coast of Iwate Prefecture in northern Japan on Sunday evening at 5.03pm local time, with a depth of 16km. Following the quake, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) issued a tsunami advisory, which was lifted after three hours.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or damage, and both nuclear power plants in the vicinity showed no abnormalities. The advisory warned of potential tsunami waves of up to 1 metre along the northern coast, which were later revised to a possible height of 3 metres in certain areas.

The tsunami initially detected reached about 10cm at Ofunato City, Ominato Port, Miyako, and Kamaishi, increasing to 20cm at Kuji.



The advisory cautioned that tsunami waves following earthquakes can persist for hours and may increase in height over time.

The JMA advised that the region remains at risk for strong quakes over the coming week, especially in the next few days. Additional tremors were felt in Iwate Prefecture, and Hokkaido also experienced shaking. It may be noted that since the devastating 2011 disaster which killed nearly 20,000 people, the area has been a focus for earthquake preparedness amidst ongoing concerns regarding nuclear safety. *—PTI*

China suspends export controls on critical minerals

BEIJING, 9 NOV

China's Ministry of Commerce announced on Sunday that it will temporarily suspend part of its export control measures on certain dual-use materials to the United States, including gallium, germanium, antimony and super hard materials, Xinhua reported.

The suspension covers the second clause of Announcement No. 46 of 2024 and will apply from 9 November, 2025 to 27 November, 2026. The clause had previously restricted exports of these materials to the US and imposed stricter review requirements for graphite shipments.

However, the first clause which bans exports of dual-use items intended for US military users or military end-uses will remain in force, according to the Global Times. The ministry clarified that only licensing and review restrictions under the second clause would be paused.

The decision follows a recent trade and economic agreement reached between US President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping during their meeting in Busan, South Korea. Under the deal, China agreed to suspend export controls on rare earths and critical materials, end retaliatory tariffs, and resume large-scale imports of US agricultural goods. In return, the US will cut certain tariffs on Chinese imports by 10 per cent and extend Section 301 tariff exclusions for another year. *—ANI*

US shutdown hits Day 40; 1K flights cancelled

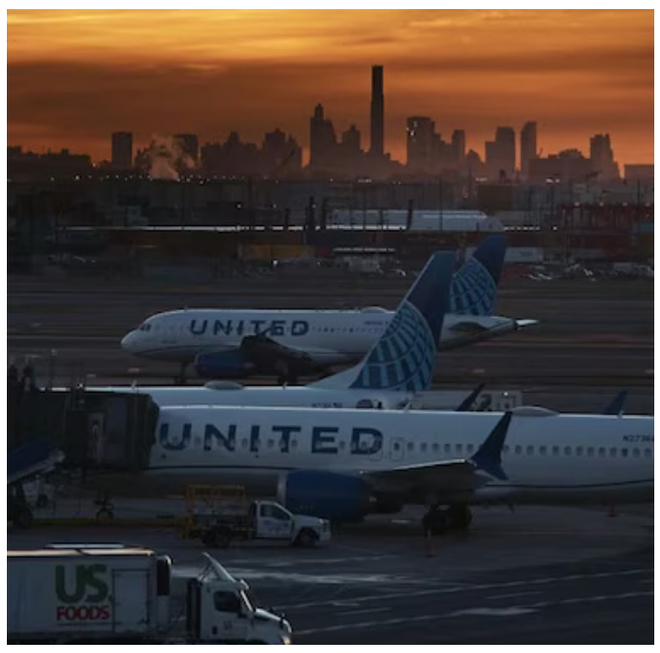
WASHINGTON, 9 NOV

The US government shutdown entered its 40th day on Sunday, crippling air travel, halting pay for federal workers, and stalling negotiations in Congress.

Airlines cancelled over 1,000 flights for a second day as the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reduced air traffic because of staff shortages. Air traffic controllers, unpaid for nearly a month, have been calling in sick, forcing a 4 per cent flight cut at 40 major airports, which could rise to 10 per cent by Friday. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy warned of further disruptions if the shutdown drags on.

Passengers faced growing uncertainty at airports from Miami to Chicago, with many scrambling to rebook or cancel plans. Analysts said the disruptions could push up prices as passenger aircraft also carry nearly half of US air freight.

In Washington, senators spent a tense weekend trying to end the funding impasse. Senate Majority Leader John Thune said Republicans were "a handful of votes away" from passing a bill to reopen the government into January. But Democrats demanded an extension of health care subsidies under the Affordable Care Act before supporting the measure.



President Donald Trump renewed pressure on Republicans to scrap the Senate's 60-vote filibuster rule and pass funding without Democrats, a move GOP leaders rejected. Moderate lawmakers from both parties are exploring a temporary deal to restore funding while pledging a future vote on the subsidies. However, Democrats remain sceptical, with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer warning that failure to act would leave millions facing soaring insurance costs and deepen the crisis. *—PTI*

Shutdown halts pay for overseas army base staff

The record US government shutdown has begun affecting American military bases overseas, forcing pay disruptions for thousands of local employees in Europe. In Germany, the government is covering wages for about 11,000 workers at US facilities, including Ramstein Air Base, while Italy and Portugal have reported unpaid staff. "This is having dramatic effects on us Italian workers," said union coordinator Angelo Zaccaria from Aviano Air Base. Some governments are offering temporary aid, expecting eventual US reimbursement. The Pentagon has not explained the delays but said it values its international civilian workforce. —PTI

Hundreds missing after migrant boat sinks near Malaysian coast

KUALA LUMPUR, 9 NOV

A boat carrying around 300 migrants from Myanmar has capsized in the Indian Ocean near the Thailand–Malaysia border, officials said on Sunday. At least one body, believed to be that of a Myanmar woman, has been recovered, while ten people were rescued and many others remain missing.

Malaysian authorities said the vessel likely sank in Thai waters before survivors drifted towards Malaysia's northern island of Langkawi. First Admiral Romli Mustafa of the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said initial investigations suggest the boat departed from Buthidaung in Myanmar's Rakhine state and sank three days ago.

Those rescued include several Myanmar nationals and one man from Bangladesh. Some of the passengers were identified as Rohingya Muslims, a persecuted minority in Myanmar.

Officials warned that cross-border trafficking networks are increasingly exploiting migrants by using perilous sea routes.

Malaysia, a preferred destination due to its Malay Muslim majority, currently hosts about 117,670 registered Rohingya refugees around 59 per cent of the country's total refugee population. While it has

Ukrainian strikes cripple power in Russia

In Voronezh, a drone strike caused blackouts and cut heating to parts of the city, home to over a million residents *PHOTO: PTI*

MOSCOW, 9 NOV

Overnight Ukrainian strikes disrupted electricity and heating in two major Russian cities near the border, regional officials said on Sunday. The attacks deepened the ongoing tit-for-tat targeting of energy facilities by both sides amid faltering US-led peace efforts to end the nearly four-year war.

In Voronezh, a drone strike caused blackouts and cut heating to parts of the city, home to over a million residents, Governor Alexander Gusev said. Several drones were reportedly jammed during the night, but one triggered a fire at a local utility site that was swiftly contained. Russian and Ukrainian Telegram channels claimed the target was a thermal power plant.

In Belgorod, a missile strike late Saturday inflicted "serious damage" on power and heating infrastructure, affecting around 20,000 households, Governor Vyacheslav Gladkov reported. Belgorod, with about 340,000 residents, serves as the regional administrative centre.

Russia's defence ministry said its forces intercepted or destroyed 44 Ukrainian drones overnight across Bryansk and Rostov regions but made no mention of the strikes in Voronezh or Belgorod. Ukraine's long-range drone attacks on Russian refineries seek to drain Moscow's war funds, while Russian forces continue pounding Ukraine's grid to, as Kyiv says, "weaponise winter." *—PTI*

B'desh cops stage drills amid fears of unrest in capital

DHAKA, 9 NOV

Bangladesh police have carried out a large-scale security drill across Dhaka ahead of the now-disbanded Awami League's planned "Dhaka Lockdown" protest on 13 November.

According to local reports, around 7,000 policemen took part in Saturday's exercise at 142 key sites, including interim government Chief Muhammad Yunus's residence. The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) described it as a routine "readiness exercise", though many viewed it as preparation for possible unrest. Witnesses reported a heavy police presence at intersections and public areas, with officers in riot gear checking bags and vehicles. "These quick-response drills ensure readiness for any emergency," said DMP spokesman Muhammad Talebur Rahman. *—PTI*

In Gaza's Old City, Palestinians pray at the battered Omari Mosque, surrounded by ruins *PHOTO: PTI*

69,000 dead in Gaza; Israelis attack West Bank

- Violence also surged in the occupied West Bank, where Palestinian health officials reported 11 injuries after Israeli settlers attacked farmers and journalists.

KHAN YOUNIS, 9 NOV

Gaza's death toll has climbed to 69,169, health officials said Saturday, as Israel and Palestinian militants carried out another exchange of remains under the fragile ceasefire. The rise reflects bodies recovered from the rubble since the truce began on 10 October and others newly identified. Israel returned the remains of 15 Palestinians a day after militants handed over the body of Israeli hostage Lior Rudaeff, born in Argentina.

Under the ceasefire's initial phase, Hamas must return all hostage remains, while Israel releases 15 Palestinian bodies for each one. Nasser Hospital officials said 300 sets of remains have been returned to Gaza, with 89 identified despite severe shortages of DNA testing resources. Families searching for missing relatives continue to inspect body bags in hope.

Gaza's Health Ministry said 284 names were added to the toll after verification between 31 October and 7 November. Since the ceasefire began, 241 people have been killed, and many remain missing. Israel's military said troops killed two militants who approached forces in northern and southern Gaza.

Violence also surged in the occupied West Bank, where Palestinian health officials reported 11 injuries after Israeli settlers attacked farmers, journalists and activists in Beita. The UN said October saw more settler attacks than any month since 2006, recording over 260 incidents. Additional assaults were reported in Burin, where international activists and a 57-year-old man were injured. *—PTI*

STRONGEST THIS YEAR

Over a million flee as 'super typhoon' hits Philippines

MANILA, 9 NOV

Super Typhoon Fung-wong, the year's strongest storm, battered the Philippines' northeastern coast on Sunday, toppling power lines, flooding towns and forcing over a million people to evacuate.

The typhoon, locally named Uwan, has a massive 1,600-km-wide rain and wind band and packed sustained winds of 185 kph with gusts up to 230 kph, forecasters said. It was spotted near Catanduanes province's coastal waters and is expected to make landfall in Aurora or Isabela province late Sunday or early Monday.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. declared a state of emergency following the devastation caused earlier by Typhoon Kalmaegi, which killed at least 224 people before moving on to Vietnam. Defence Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. warned of catastrophic impacts, urging residents in flood- and landslide-prone areas to evacuate immediately.

Rescuers evacuate people to safer grounds in Quezon province, eastern Philippines as Typhoon Fung-wong enters the country *PHOTO: PTI*

"When the rains and floods start, it becomes too dangerous to rescue people," he said.

Authorities reported power outages across eastern provinces, suspension of classes and government work, and cancellation of over 380 flights. More than 6,600 commuters were stranded in ports after the coast guard barred vessels from sailing amid rough seas.

In Catanduanes, rescuers saved several residents trapped by floodwaters as winds ripped rooftops and downed trees.

Officials said more than 30 million people could be exposed to hazards from the storm, which also threatens Metro Manila and the central province of Cebu. *—PTI*

PHOTO: FREEPIK

CIL aims for 875MT coal output by FY26, says CMD

KOLKATA, 9 NOV

Coal India Ltd (CIL) is striving to meet its ambitious coal production target of 875 million tonnes (MT) for the current fiscal year, despite missing targets in the previous two months. Chairman and Managing Director Sanoj Kumar Jha stated, "Today I can't say we will not meet (the production target). I can't say we will meet. But we will aspire that we will be able to be there or near there." CIL's production declined to 56.4MT in October and 48.97MT in September, largely due to monsoon rains and sluggish demand from the power sector. Jha assured that the company plans to have greater coal stocks by year-end. —*PTI*

DPIIT signs 50 deals to boost mfg startups

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) has signed over 50 agreements with companies including ITC, Flipkart, and Mercedes-Benz to strengthen India's manufacturing and innovation ecosystem for startups. The department is working with large corporates, industry bodies, and unicorns to establish manufacturing incubators and promote collaboration with emerging firms. Companies such as boAT, Hero Moto, HDFC Capital Advisors, Zepto, Paytm, and Ather Energy are among the signatories. The initiative aims to help manufacturing startups scale by providing shared facilities for prototyping, testing, and production, reducing high capital costs. These incubators will also link startups with larger industries, offering access to design centers, technology support, and market opportunities, the DPIIT official said. —*PTI*

Skoda to expand India lineup, delays EV entry

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

Czech carmaker Skoda Auto plans to expand its India lineup with more global models next year while deferring immediate electric vehicle (EV) launches, a senior executive said. "Our core portfolio of locally produced cars remains the same, but we plan to bring some more global, iconic models to excite the market," Skoda Auto India Brand Director Ashish Gupta told PTI. He did not reveal model names. Skoda currently sells locally manufactured models such as Kylaq, Kushaq and Slavia, and imports Octavia and Kodiaq. The company, having already achieved record sales of 61,607 units between January and October 2025, aims to maintain its 2 per cent market share.—*PTI*

'Salesforce to expand India funding, growth'

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

US-based IT major Salesforce plans to expand its investments and operations in India, citing the country's strong talent base, Executive Vice President and MD (South Asia) Arun Kumar Parameswaran said. Since launching its first centre in Hyderabad in 2005, Salesforce has grown to six Indian locations with annual revenue of USD 1 billion and a workforce of over 13,000, up from 2,500 in 2020. "We will continue to invest and grow in India because the country has a lot of skills everyone wants to hire," Parameswaran told PTI. The global CRM leader expects its revenues to cross USD 41 billion by FY26. Responsible AI and data protection remain central to its innovation strategy, said Rob Katz, VP for Product Management and Responsible AI. —*PTI*

7 top firms' mcap erodes by ₹88,635 cr

Bharti Airtel and TCS took the biggest hit in line with the weak trend in equities

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

The combined market valuation of seven of the top-10 most valued firms eroded by Rs 88,635.28 crore in a holiday-shortened last week, with Bharti Airtel and Tata Consultancy Services taking the biggest hit, in line with the weak trend in equities.

In a holiday-shortened last week, the BSE benchmark tanked 722.43 points or 0.86 per cent, and the Nifty declined by 229.8 points or 0.89 per cent.

While Reliance Industries, HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), ICICI Bank, Infosys and Hindustan Unilever faced erosion from their valuation, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance and Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) were the gainers from the top-10 pack.

The market valuation of Bharti Airtel tumbled Rs 30,506.26 crore to Rs 11,41,048.30 crore.

TCS faced an erosion of Rs 23,680.38 crore from its valuation, which stood at Rs 10,82,658.42 crore.

The market capitalisation (mcap) of Hindustan Unilever dropped by Rs 12,253.12 crore to Rs 5,67,308.81 crore, and that of Reliance Industries declined by Rs 11,164.29 crore to Rs 20,00,437.77 crore.

The market valuation of Bharti Airtel tumbled Rs 30,506.26 crore, while TCS faced an erosion of Rs 23,680.38 crore PHOTO: FREEPIK

HDFC Bank's mcap dipped by Rs 7,303.93 crore to Rs 15,11,375.21 crore, and that of Infosys edged lower by Rs 2,139.52 crore to Rs 6,13,750.48 crore. The valuation of ICICI Bank declined by Rs 1,587.78 crore to Rs 9,59,540.08 crore.

However, the mcap of LIC climbed Rs 18,469 crore to Rs 5,84,366.54 crore.

The market valuation of State Bank of India jumped Rs 17,492.02 crore to Rs 8,82,400.89 crore, and that of Bajaj Finance went up by Rs 14,965.08 crore to Rs 6,63,721.32 crore.

Reliance Industries remained the most valued domestic firm, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, TCS, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, LIC and Hindustan Unilever. —*PTI*

'Inflation, global cues, earnings to steer markets'

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

Inflation data, corporate earnings, and global trends are expected to guide stock markets this week, analysts said. Foreign institutional investor (FII) activity, crude oil movement, and the rupee-dollar trend will also influence sentiment. "This week will be crucial, with CPI and WPI inflation data offering insights into inflation trajectory and policy outlook," said Ajit Mishra, SVP–Research, Religare Broking. Quarterly results from ONGC, Bajaj Finserv, Asian Paints, Tata Steel, and Oil India will be closely watched for sectoral cues. Ponmudi R, CEO of Enrich Money, said October's CPI data could shape expectations on interest rates. —*PTI*

FPIs resume selling, draw ₹12,569 cr in Nov

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

After a brief hiatus in October, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) have returned to selling, withdrawing a net Rs 12,569 crore from Indian equities so far in November, driven by weak global cues and risk-off sentiment. This comes on the heels of a net inflow of Rs 14,610 crore in October, following consecutive monthly outflows of Rs 23,885 crore in September, Rs 34,990 crore in August, and Rs 17,700 crore in July, according to depository data.

VK Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist at Geojit Financial Services, noted, "The renewed selling trend has contributed to India's underperformance compared to other major markets this year." He highlighted a significant divergence in FPI flows, with hedge funds favouring countries benefiting from an AI-driven rally, such as the US, China, South Korea, and Taiwan.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

Vijayakumar cautioned that, given the high valuations linked to AI, there is a risk of a bubble in global tech stocks, which could halt sustained selling in India.

Similarly, Vaqarjaved Khan, Senior Fundamental Analyst at Angel One, indicated that while FPIs sold Rs 12,569 crore in early November amid a broader global tech sell-off, sector-specific recoveries could emerge as earnings season progresses. —*PTI*

Foreign currency assets, the largest component of the reserves, stood at $564.591 billion, marking a fall of $1.957 billion PHOTO: FREEPIK

India's forex reserves dip by $5.623B in October

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

India's foreign exchange reserves dropped by $5.623 billion to $689.733 billion in the week ending 31 October, according to the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) latest Weekly Statistical Supplement.

The fall was primarily driven by declines in both foreign currency assets and gold reserves.

Despite the recent dip, India's forex reserves remain close to their all-time high of $704.89 billion, recorded in September 2024. Over the past month, reserves have trended downward except for one week of increase.

Foreign currency assets (FCA), the largest component of the reserves, stood at $564.591 billion, marking a fall of $1.957 billion. Gold reserves also saw a notable decline of $3.810 billion, standing at $101.726 billion.

The fall comes even as global gold prices have risen sharply in recent months amid economic uncertainties and strong investor demand.

Following RBI's latest monetary policy review, Governor Sanjay Malhotra stated that India's reserves were sufficient to cover more than 11 months of merchandise imports, reflecting a comfortable external position. —*ANI*

boAt accused of IPO-fraud; Executives resign

MUMBAI, 9 NOV

After eyewear brand Lenskart, Indian audio company boAt is planning to launch its IPO (Initial Public Offering). However, many investors are unsure about the company's financial status. boAt became profitable this year after two years of losses, but its revenue has been falling, and its wearables segment (like smartwatches) dipped 63 per cent, from Rs 9,015.60 crore in 2023 to Rs 5,502.96 crore in 2024.

The IPO by its parent company, Imagine Marketing Ltd, is worth Rs 1,500 crore, and two-thirds of it is an offer for sale, meaning the founders are selling part of their ownership.

According to the Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) filing, both co-founders Sameer Ashok Mehta and Aman Gupta stepped down from their executive positions just 29 days before the company filed for its initial public offering. Mehta resigned as Chief Executive Officer, while Gupta left his role as Chief Marketing Officer. The pair has transitioned to board-level roles Mehta as Executive Director and Gupta as Non-Executive Director without any salary or sitting fees, a stark change from FY25 when each drew annual salary of Rs 2.5 crore.

Mundhra described the move as a "calculated pre-IPO pivot," suggesting the founders are distancing themselves from day-to-day operations at a crucial time. He also highlighted the company's escalating employee attrition rate, which surged to 34.18 per cent in FY25, compared to 27.09 per cent in FY23 and 28.14 per cent in FY24 calling it "a mass exodus" and evidence of a "completely broken internal culture." —*Agencies*

boAt co-founders Aman Gupta and Sameer Mehta PHOTO: X

InCred seeks Rs 3,000-4,000 cr via IPO

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

InCred Holdings, part of NBFC InCred Financial Services, has filed preliminary documents with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) for a confidential initial public offering (IPO), anticipating an issue size of Rs 3,000 to Rs 4,000 crore. The company aims to capitalise on its strong financial performance in FY25, along with its diversified lending portfolio, including personal, student, and MSME loans. Since its inception in 2016, InCred Finance has disbursed loans exceeding Rs 25,000 crore. Its FY25 profit after tax rose by 18 per cent to Rs 372 crore. —*PTI*

PhysicsWallah to expand offline too

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

Edtech unicorn PhysicsWallah is not only maintaining its focus on online education, but is also making significant strides in offline expansion, according to co-founder and CEO Alakh Pandey. The company plans to open new learning centres in cities including Muzaffarpur, Dhanbad, Akola, Latur, and Chennai, following a hyperlocal strategy to cater to students in their hometowns. As of June 2025, the firm operated 303 centres, up from 182 the previous year. Pandey described himself as "very bullish on the online medium" while also launching courses for classes 6-10. —*PTI*

NCLT approves Suzuki Motor Gujarat, Maruti Suzuki merger

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

The National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has sanctioned the merger scheme that amalgamates Suzuki Motor Gujarat with its parent company, Maruti Suzuki India, the largest car manufacturer in the country. A bench consisting of two members from the NCLT's Principal Bench in Delhi approved the joint petition filed by Suzuki Motor Gujarat Pvt Ltd (the transferor company) and Maruti Suzuki India Ltd (the transferee company), designating 1 April, 2025, as the appointed

PHOTO: AI

tions from the Income Tax Department and other statutory bodies such as the RBI, SEBI, BSE, and NSE have not been raised.

The NCLT's order indicated, "The Scheme of Merger by Amalgamation proposed by the Petitioner Companies under Sections 230 to 232 of the Companies Act, 2013, is hereby sanctioned." It added that the transferred company would dissolve immediately upon filing a certified copy of the order with the Registrar of Companies.

The joint petition highlighted the advantages of the merger, notably the "consolidation of their businesses" that will result in enhanced operational efficiency and reduced administrative costs.

It also ensures that all employees of Suzuki Motor Gujarat will transition to Maruti Suzuki India on the effective date. —*PTI*

Kwatra, Intel CEO talks about biz plans for India

NEW YORK, 9 NOV

India's Ambassador to the United States, Vinay Mohan Kwatra, held a virtual meeting with Intel CEO Lip Bu Tan, focusing on the tech giant's semiconductor and artificial intelligence plans for India.

This discussion is timely as New Delhi intensifies its commitment to bolstering its semiconductor and AI sectors through the India Semiconductor Mission and the IndiaAI initiative.

Kwatra took to social media platform X, stating, "Had the pleasure to interact with Mr. Lip Bu Tan, CEO of INTEL to discuss INTEL's initiatives and plans for India operations in coordination with the Government's goal to develop semiconductor and AI industry in India under the aegis of India Semiconductor Mission and India AI."

The meeting anticipates India's upcoming AI summit, set to take place in February 2026. The India-AI Impact Summit will occur from 19-20 February in New Delhi. —*PTI*

Analyst says gold likely to stay in correction

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

Gold prices are expected to stay in correction ahead of key US inflation data and China's economic indicators, analysts said. Ongoing tariff uncertainty and mixed cues from Federal Reserve officials are likely to guide near-term direction.

"Prices may consolidate as focus shifts to inflation numbers, Fed speeches, and the Supreme Court hearing on Trump's trade tariffs," said Pranav Mer of JM Financial Services. He added that a firm dollar and weak retail demand capped gains, though the downside was limited by the continuing US government shutdown, which delayed major data releases.

On MCX, December gold futures slipped 0.14 per cent to Rs 1,21,067 per 10g, while Comex gold rose 0.33 per cent to USD 4,009.8 an ounce. "Gold remains range-bound but supported by safe-haven demand and expectations of US rate cuts," said Angel One's Prathamesh Mallya.

PHOTO: ANI

Silver mirrored gold's trend, easing 0.38 per cent on MCX to Rs 1,47,728/kg. Analysts said silver remains steady above USD 48, aided by resilient industrial demand and shutdown-linked volatility. —*PTI*

'2.5 TIMES GROWTH IN PAST 5 YRS'

India's deeptech sector expected to hit $30B by 2030: Report

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

India's deeptech sector is likely to witness exponential growth, with its market opportunity projected to reach USD 30 billion by 2030, driven by defence innovation and a surge in global robotics, according to a report by Redseer Strategy Consultants.

India has observed a significant shift in spending towards defence deeptech, with the national defence budget doubling over the past decade to USD 80 billion. This expansion surpasses growth rates recorded by top global spenders, such as the US and China, during the same period.

"India's deep tech opportunity has grown 2.5 times in the past 5 years and is poised to be a USD 30 billion juggernaut by 2030. India is emerging as the only trusted, low-cost scale hub outside China. Its deeptech base, i.e. USD 9-12 billion as of FY2025, is being pulled forward by spending in India's defence deeptech and global robotics," the report noted.

PHOTO: ANI

India's emerging status as a trusted, low-cost global hub outside China is being cemented by deeptech advancements in robotics.

The global robotic machines market, valued at USD 60 billion, is anticipated to surge to nearly USD 230 billion by 2030, with humanoids, representing a breakout category and an estimated USD 10 billion opportunity in the same period.

India enjoys a substantial cost advantage, with production costs for humanoid robots about 73 per cent lower than in the US, attributed to efficient local integration, comparatively low labour costs, and cost-optimised sourcing.—*PTI*

'INDIA SET TO BECOME LARGEST SCOTCH MARKET'

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

India is on track to emerge as the world's largest Scotch whisky market in both value and volume within the next few years, driven by competitive intensity, premiumisation, and economic growth, said Mark Kent CMG, Chief Executive of the Scotch Whisky Association.

Kent highlighted India's flourishing single malt whisky sector, expressing interest in partnerships with Indian malt makers for exporting to the UK and other global markets.

"This is a significant opportunity for both the Indian and Scottish industries," he noted, emphasising the potential for increased exports of Indian single malt to the UK.

Notably, India recently regained its status as the top export market for Scotch by volume, with 192 million bottles in 2024, while the US leads in value at £971 million.

With an upcoming free trade agreement (FTA) expected to lower tariffs, Kent anticipates a boost in both investment and competitiveness.

"Our challenge now is to turn the good framework of the FTA into business reality," he added. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PCB

Pakistan wins Hong Kong Sixes 2025 tournament

DUBAI, 9 NOV

Pakistan beat Kuwait by 43 runs in the final of the Hong Kong Sixes 2025 cricket tournament at the Mission Road Ground in Mong Kok on Sunday. Pakistan posted an imposing 135 for three in six overs, thanks to opener Abdul Samad's 13-ball 42 and skipper Abbas Afridi's blistering 52 off 11 balls. In reply, Kuwait was restricted to 92 in 5.1 overs, with left-arm spinner Maaz Sadaqat picking three wickets. Pakistan had also opened its campaign with a four-wicket win over Kuwait. It suffered a minor setback in its following match as it lost to archrival India by two runs via the DLS method.—*PTI*

ISSF World C'ships: India's Bhanwala wins silver

CAIRO, 9 NOV

India's Anish Bhanwala secured the country's fifth medal at the ongoing Shooting World Championships after clinching the bronze medal in the men's 25m rapid fire pistol event on Sunday in Cairo, Egypt.The 23-year-old prevailed in four shoot-offs en route to his maiden individual World Championships medal.The Indian ended with a score of 28 at the end of eight series, just behind gold medal-winner Clement Bessaguet's (France) score of 29. Ukraine's Maksym Horodynets clinched bronze with 25.Bhanwala entered the final in good standing after finishing qualification in second place (585 - 22x) behind Bessaguet's 589 - 21x and finished with 16 out of 20 after the end of the first four series. He was forced into his first shoot-off after getting just two shots on target in the sixth series.—*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Rathika loses a close final in NSW Open Squash

SYDNEY, 9 NOV

India's Rathika Suthanthira Seelan lost a fiercely-contested final to Canadian top seed Iman Shaheen over five games in the NSW Open Squash tournament here on Sunday. The 24-year-old Rathika, second seed and world No. 180, rallied to win the third and fourth games in what was her fourth PSA final to take the Challenger event title down to the wire. However, the Canadian edged her out in the decider to seal a hard-fought 11-8, 11-3, 4-11, 10-12, 12-10 in 61 minutes. Earlier on Saturday, Rathika stormed into her fourth PSA final with a straight-games win over New Zealand's sixth seed Emma Merson.—*PTI*

Ryan joins Indian football team camp in Bengaluru

BENGALURU, 9 NOV

Forward Ryan Williams, who has relinquished his Australian passport to become an Indian citizen, has joined the Khalid Jamil-coached national team camp in Bengaluru, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) said on Sunday. Born in Perth, the 32-year-old entered the camp along with defender Jay Gupta. "Forward Ryan Williams and defender Jay Gupta have joined the senior men's national team camp in Bengaluru," the AIFF posted on X. In what could mark a new beginning for Indian football, the game's national federation, AIFF, earlier this week roped in two overseas-based players, Williams and Abneet Bharti, for the national camp.—*PTI*

SA A register win to end series vs India A 1-1

It was the highest run chase in the 'A' matches

BENGALURU, 9 NOV

South Africa's top-order batters ran roughshod over a set of regular Test bowlers in the ranks of India A, etching a memorable five-wicket win on the fourth day of the second four-day match here on Sunday.

Chasing an improbable-looking 417, South Africa, overnight 25 for no loss, never looked daunted by the size of the target, and if anything, were determined to overhaul it. Jordan Hermann (91, 123 balls), Lesego Senokwane (77, 174b), Temba Bavuma (59, 101b), Zubayr Hamza (77, 88b), and Connor Esterhuizen (52 n.o, 54b) produced glittering fifties to power SA A to 417/5 with three overs remaining as the match went past the regular 5 pm close to complete the 90-over quota. It was the highest run chase in the 'A' matches.

The openers added 156 runs off 258 balls to give South Africa an ideal launching pad, and in the first session alone, they scored 114 runs in just 27 overs. Hermann, in particular, was impressive, executing some fabulous drives through the covers off pacer Akash Deep, and it would not be too long before the 23-year-old found himself in the senior South African side.

Jordan Hermann
PHOTO: PTI

However, he would be kicking himself for spooning a return catch to Prasidh Krishna a few overs into the post-lunch session.

Senokwane departed soon, as he missed a sweep off left-arm spinner Harsh Dubey to be adjudged leg before.

The visitors were 197 for two at that stage in 53 overs. Though in a comfortable position, it was not clear whether they would push for a win, especially with two new batters in the middle. But Bavuma and Hamza, particularly the latter, played some dazzling shots to keep SA ahead of the curve. Hamza's drives and flicks were a treat to watch as they added 107 runs for the third wicket to take the tourists past the 300-run mark.

That Mohammad Siraj had to stay out of the field for more than an hour to tend to his finger, which got hit while fielding, took away some edge from the Indian attack in that period. However, the pacer came back and bowled four overs (4-0-24-1), and later dismissed the hard-hitting Marques Ackerman to slow down the South Africans.

South Africa A 221 (Ackerman 134, Prasidh 3-35) and 417 for 5 (Hermann 91, Senokwane 77, Hamza 77, Prasidh 2-49) beat India A 255 (Jurel 132*, van Vuuren 4-52) and 382 for 7 dec (Jurel 127*, Cele 3-46) by five wickets—*PTI*

India A's Mohammed Siraj walks off the field after suffering an injury while fielding during the fourth day
PHOTO: PTI

CHESS WORLD CUP 2025

Karthik enters Round 4; Gujrathi, Narayanan eliminated

PANJIM, 9 NOV

Indian Grandmaster Vidit Gujrathi bowed out of the World Chess Cup after a 2.5-3.5 loss to Sam Shankland of the United States in the second set of tie-break games of the third round here on Sunday.

On what turned out to be a dramatic day, S L Narayanan also had to concede defeat against Yangyi Yu of China in the first set of tie-break games, but V Karthik continued with his dream run and defeated Deac Bogdan-Daniel of Romania 1.5-0.5.

Karthik reached the fourth round, which means there are five Indians left in the fray after the first three rounds.The two favourites, Arjun Erigaisi and R Praggnanandhaa, and P Harikrishna, who has shown sublime form here, and world junior champion V Pranav, who has proved that he is the next big Indian star in the making, have already qualified by winning the games under the classical format itself.

It will be a test of time for the five Indians in the last 32 stage in the event that started with 206 players. With the top three slots at stake for the next Candidates' tournament, it seems that the battles will be even more interesting in the rounds to come.

Meanwhile, Gujrathi became the third biggest casualty from an Indian perspective in the tournament after the ouster of world champion D Gukesh, who lost under classical games against Frederic Svane of Germany, and Aravindh Chithambaram, who went down to Karthik as early as round two.

For V Karthik, this is turning out to be the event of a lifetime as he has now got into the stage from where one more victory will push him to the pre-quarterfinals. —*PTI*

Shreyas Gopal gives K'taka upper hand

NASIK, 9 NOV

Maharashtra batter Prithvi Shaw struck a fighting half-century on his birthday, but Shreyas Gopal gave Karnataka the upper hand with a four-wicket haul and a plucky 71 on day two of the Ranji Trophy Group B match here on Sunday.

Resuming the day at 257 for five, Gopal (71 off 162) guided Karnataka to 313 all out in their first innings. Captain Mayank Agarwal had made 80 at the top of the order.

When Maharashtra came out to bat, leg-spinner Gopal got four important wickets as Maharashtra ended the day at 200 for six, trailing Karnataka by 113 runs. Shaw, who smashed a double hundred earlier this season, carried Maharashtra's fight before falling to Mohsin Khan.

Jalaj Saxena and Vicky Ostwal were batting on 34 and four respectively.

In Thiruvananthapuram, Saurashtra found themselves on the back foot after an underwhelming first innings effort.

Kerala were able to make 233 in response, taking the first-innings lead of 73 runs. Aparajith top-scored for Kerala with 69 while captain Jaydev Unadkat was the pick of the Saurashtra bowlers with four wickets.

In their second innings, Saurashtra were 47 for one in 17 overs, trailing Kerala by 26 runs at close of play.

Brief scores:

In Mangalapuram: Saurashtra: 160 all out in 55.2 overs (Jay Gohil 84; MD Nidheesh 6/20) and Saurashtra 47 for one in 17 overs vs Kerala 233 all out in 74.5 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 80; Hiten Kanbi 2/53, Jaydev Unadkat 4/42).

In Pune, Karnataka: 313 all out in 111 overs (Mayank Agarwal 80, Ravichandran Smaran 54, Shreyas Gopal 71; Jalaj Saxena 4/94) vs Maharashtra 200 for six in 66 overs (Prithvi Shaw 71; Shreyas Gopal 4/46).

In Porvorim, Goa: 284 all out in 95.5 overs (Suyash Prabhudessai 65; Saransh Jain 4/78) vs Madhya Pradesh 181 for seven in 73 overs (Saransh Jain 48; Koushik 3/33). —*PTI*

Shreyas Gopal turned the tables for Karnataka with a stroke-filled 71 and picked up figures of 4/46 with the ball
PHOTO: PTI

LEADS SERIES 2-1

NZ beats WI by 9 runs in 3rd T20

NELSON, 9 NOV

Kyle Jamieson bowled a superb final over to seal a nine-run win for New Zealand over the West Indies here on Sunday in the third Twenty20 International.

New Zealand leads the three-match series 2-1, and Jamieson also bowled the last over in the second match on Thursday, which New Zealand won by three runs.

The West Indies won the first match by seven runs, and all three matches have been decided in the final over.

New Zealand managed only 177-9 batting first, but seemed headed for a comfortable win when the West Indies slumped to 88-8 in the 13th over at Saxton Oval.

Romario Shepherd scored 49 from 34 balls and Shamar Springer 39 from 20 as the West Indies rallied to reach the last over needing 14 runs to win with one wicket in hand and Shepherd and Akeal Hosein at the crease.

The onus again fell on the tall, fast bowler Jamieson to bowl the final over, and he held his nerve, conceding only two runs from the first four balls before dismissing Shepherd with the fifth ball to end the match.

Once again Sunday, the West Indies' tail came to the rescue of its brittle top order. The tourists lost two wickets in the second over of their innings, bowled by Jacob Duffy, and were 47-2 at the end of the first power play, then lost six wickets for 35 runs through the middle overs.

Spinner Ish Sodhi took 3-34 and was the player of the match.

New Zealand 177 for 9 (Conway 56, Mitchell 41, Forde 2-20, Holder 2-31) beat West Indies 168 (Shepherd 49, Springer 39, Sodhi 3-34, Duffy 3-36) by nine runs. —*PTI*

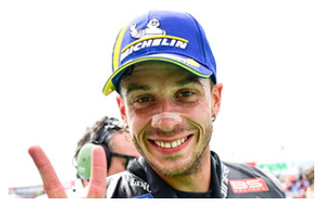
MotoGP: Marco wins Portuguese GP

RIYADH, 9 NOV

Aprilia rider Marco Bezzecchi produced the perfect ride on a testing Algarve International Circuit to win the Portuguese MotoGP on Sunday.

Starting from pole, the 26-year-old Italian controlled the 25-lap race from start to finish ahead of Alex Marquez (Ducati-Gresini) and Pedro Costa (KTM).

With nearest challenger Francesco Bagnaia falling, Bezzecchi stretched his advantage in third place to 35 points. That leaves Bagnaia with a miracle to perform in the Valencia finale if he wants to finish the year better than fourth and officially puts Acosta out of the running for a championship top three.



Bezzecchi took a comfortable lead into the first corner of the race, with Acosta and Marquez slotting in behind the RS-GP25. Directly behind them, Bagnaia pulled off a similar move on Fabio Quartararo. —*PTI*

Djokovic withdraws from ATP Finals due to injury

PARIS, 9 NOV

Serbian maestro Novak Djokovic dramatically lifted his 101st career title by overwhelming Italy's Lorenzo Musetti in an absorbing three-hour final at the Athens Open.

After Djokovic emerged victorious following the gruelling three sets, Musetti was soon confirmed as the 38-year-old's replacement for the season-ending ATP Finals in Turin. Djokovic was seen wearing a shoulder strap in the final.

I'm sad to share that I need to withdraw due to an ongoing injury," Djokovic wrote on Instagram."I'm truly sorry to the fans. —*PTI*

AIFF'S BID EVALUATION: JUSTICE RAO TO SUBMIT REPORT TO SC

NEW DELHI, 9 NOV

All India Football Federation (AIFF) on Sunday said that the Bid Evaluation Committee's Chairperson, Justice (retd.) Nageswara Rao will submit his report to the Supreme Court after not a single bid was received for the Indian Super League's commercial rights. The AIFF on Friday announced that it had not received any bid for the commercial rights of the already-delayed ISL, leaving the future of the country's domestic football in disarray.

The other two members of the Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) are AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey and Kesvaran Murugasu of the Asian Football Confederation, as an independent member.

"The Bid Evaluation Committee (BEC) of the All Indian Football Federation (AIFF) held a meeting on Sunday, 9 November 2025, to review and discuss the status of the 'Request for Proposal' for awarding the right to monetise the commercial rights belonging to the AIFF for a limited period," the AIFF statement said."Following the deliberations of the committee, the chairperson of the BEC, Justice (Retd) Nageswara Rao, will submit his report to the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India as the next step in the process." The bid process is being supervised by the Supreme Court, and Justice Rao was appointed on the orders of the apex court.

The continued uncertainty over the much-delayed ISL has led to a few clubs, including Mohun Bagan Super Giant, suspending all their football activities indefinitely.

The reigning ISL champions, Mohun Bagan, have even stated that they will review the contracts of players and support staff next month. —*PTI*

FACED A LOT OF STRUGGLES

Worked extremely hard last year: Shafali

CHANDIGARH, 9 NOV

India's women's World Cup winner Shafali Verma on Sunday said she has faced a lot of struggles in the last year and worked "extremely hard" to improve her game, which culminated in a historic World Cup glory.

Picked as a replacement for the injured Pratika Rawal, the 21-year-old Shafali was named player of the final for her 87 runs with the bat and 2/36 with the ball in the team's 52-run win against South Africa.

"The last year was very tough for me. I faced a lot of struggles, but I kept working extremely hard and was rewarded by God for my effort," Shafali told reporters after a felicitation programme here.

Shafali was called in to the Indian squad on the eve of the semifinal against mighty Australia, and while she could not fire in the last four clash, the Haryana girl shone in the title clash.

Shafali Verma
PHOTO: PTI

"When I joined the Indian team ahead of the semifinal, I was determined to contribute to the World Cup victory. The final is always a big stage. Initially, I was a bit nervous, but I calmed myself, focused on my strategy, and executed it well. That helped me deliver an all-round performance," Shafali said.

After receiving a grand welcome upon her arrival in her hometown, Rohtak, the swashbuckling opener urged girls to have self-belief and work hard, saying results will come.

"They should always put in the hard work in whatever field they may choose and also have self-belief, and results will follow," Shafali said. The Harmanpreet Kaur-led side scripted a defining moment for Indian women's cricket by winning its maiden global title, the 50-over World Cup, with victory over South Africa in the final in Navi Mumbai last Sunday. —*PTI*

Quiet comeback for Jemimah in WBBL

BRISBANE, 9 NOV

Jemimah Rodrigues' return to competitive cricket after the high of the World Cup triumph turned out to be a quiet one as the Indian batting superstar managed only six runs in her team, Brisbane Heat's seven-wicket defeat against Melbourne Renegades in the Women's Big Bash League here Sunday.

Rodrigues, who was playing her first match since India's historic ODI World Cup win last week, looked eager to make an impact but got out after facing nine balls, edging Alice Capsey to Deandra Dottin at backward point.

Rodrigues' subdued return may have disappointed her growing fan base, but her presence added star value to the contest.

Brisbane Heat posted a video on their X handle, showing a smiling Jemimah making he way to the pitch, saying," I am here in Brisbane, can you believe it, very excited for today, let's go."

Her early exit came at a crucial juncture as Heat could only post 133 all out in 20 overs. —*PTI*